

Disability Health Reference Group

Expression of Interest

Vacancies available

Applications are now open to become a member of the Disability Health Reference Group (DHRG). People with disability and carers of people with disability who live in the ACT and region can apply.

The DHRG is seeking up to 12 people with disability or carers of people with disability of all genders, age (18+), and type of disability; and strongly encourage people with disability and carers of people with disability who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTIQ+, or have an intellectual disability to apply.

We are looking for people who are passionate, enthusiastic, and keen to contribute to advising the ACT Government and the healthcare system in the ACT on disability health-related issues; people who will work together in the best interests of people with disability in the ACT.

You must reside in the ACT or work, study, or volunteer in the ACT; or demonstrate another significant connection and commitment to the ACT and are able to draw upon valued and relevant perspectives and experience.

ACT Public Service (ACTPS) employees are ordinarily eligible for membership in a personal capacity if there is minimal conflict between their duties to the DHRG and to the ACTPS.

Members may request to have a support person to attend meetings with them. The support person may be a family member, carer, or from an organisation. Members can also seek approval to have a support person attend meetings with them to support them around DHRG processes or to act as their translator. Support people will not directly contribute to DHRG discussions and outcomes.

About the Disability Health Reference Group

The DHRG is an advisory group which works to ensure the ACT Government and the healthcare system in the ACT is aware and responsive of the health issues which affect people with disability in the ACT; and monitors the implementation of disability health-related strategies, plans, and recommendations.

The DHRG will be co-chaired by a person with disability.

Frequency and Duration

The DHRG meets for two hours bi-monthly, five times a year; with a break over the December/January holiday season.

Main Functions

The DHRG has two main functions:

1. Provide high-level strategic advice on disability health-related matters in the ACT.
2. Provide high-level strategic monitoring of the implementation of the *Disability Health Strategy 2024-2033* (DHS) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) *Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2022-2025* (DAIP), including status reports, annual progress reports, and evaluations. The DHRG will also provide input or advice to DHS: First Action Plan and DAIP action items as required.

Other functions

Collaborate and support, as required:

- work being undertaken under other ACT disability-related strategies and plans;
- projects being undertaken across the healthcare system in the ACT;
- work being undertaken by other committees, including the ACT Disability Reference Group (DRG); and
- disability health-related reform work at a national level.

Foster cooperated linkages with people with disability, their families, carers, and the wider disability community, including service providers and advocacy groups.

DHS

The [DHS](#) is a 10-year plan that aims to ensure people with disability have equitable and appropriate access to healthcare in the ACT and improved health outcomes. The DHS informs and guides the development of subsequent action plans. The three-year DHS: *First Action Plan 2024-2026* aims to lay the foundations to build upon in subsequent action plans.

DAIP

The [DAIP](#) is a three-year plan to improve the experience and outcomes of people with disability, their families, and carers – both those accessing health care, and those who work within CHS.

Remuneration

Community members will be remunerated for participating in bi-monthly meetings and significant out-of-session. Remuneration will be agreed in advance of out-of-session forums and engagements.

Expectations of members

Members of the DHRG will draw from their own personal healthcare experiences and their broader engagement with people with disability, their families, carers, and local service providers to offer guidance on how to improve health outcomes for people with disability.

Members are expected to attend all meetings, actively contribute to discussions; ensuring they have read agenda papers and are prepared to provide input. They are expected to participate in meeting discussions and work projects actively and constructively.

Members are also expected to stay connected to community networks and actively seek community feedback and advice in the normal course of their community engagement.

While some members may be selected due to their knowledge and experience within community organisations, they are appointed as individuals to provide healthcare advice and opinions in the best interests of the ACT disability community, and not to represent an organisation.

How to apply

You can apply in three different ways:

1. Write an application of no more than two pages answering the questions below and email it to ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) Disability and Community Policy via acthdisabilityandcommunity@act.gov.au; or
2. Call ACTHD Disability and Community Policy on 5124 9355, or email acthdisabilityandcommunity@act.gov.au, to make a time to meet with a member of the team to respond to the questions via video link or telephone; or
3. Make a short video about yourself and email it (or a link to the video) to ACTHD Disability and Community Policy via acthdisabilityandcommunity@act.gov.au.

If you require reasonable adjustments to be made to enable you to participate in this process, please contact ACTHD Disability and Community Policy via acthdisabilityandcommunity@act.gov.au.

Application questions

Please address these questions in your application:

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Disability Health Reference Group?
2. What knowledge can you bring to the Disability Health Reference Group?
3. What experience do you have in promoting or advocating for people with disability in the healthcare system?

Applications close COB Monday 6 May 2024.

Contact details

Disability and Community Policy
Health Policy and Strategy Branch
ACT Health Directorate

Phone: **5124 9355**

Email: acthdisabilityandcommunity@act.gov.au