

ACT Disability Strategy

Consultation Snapshot

December 2022



We are developing a **new 10-year ACT Disability Strategy** to create a more welcoming and accessible community and improve the lives of the more than 80,000 Canberrans who identify as people with disability.

The Australian Government launched *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031* on 3 December 2021. This commits all Australian governments to work together to bring about an inclusive society for people with disability. The ACT has obligations under Australia's Disability Strategy, including the development of a 10-year ACT Disability Strategy.

The 10-year ACT Disability Strategy will strengthen and consolidate the ACT's commitment to Australia's Disability Strategy whilst incorporating a local viewpoint which supports a more inclusive and welcoming Canberra.

An open consultation on the ACT Disability Strategy took place from March to August 2022. This consultation was co-designed and led by the ACT Disability Reference Group.

The consultation sought the views of the community to shape the key priorities of the new 10-year ACT Disability Strategy.

Thank you for your feedback

8,000

people reached via YourSay

36

written submissions from individuals and organisations

397

online survey responses

130

people voted for ideas at the ACT Disability Expo

415

people attended consultation events

35

creative responses received from students

33

events with deep conversations

18

carers and people with disability facilitated events

The consultation was co-designed with the ACT Disability Reference Group. The voices of people with disability were at the forefront of the planning and the activities. Of the events held, 31 were facilitated by people with disability and 2 were facilitated by family carers.

Consultation activities included:

- > focused conversations on identified themes (in person and online)
- > open forums
- > kitchen table conversation kits
- > submissions, both written and video
- > an online survey through the YourSay platform
- > a ‘Student Voice’ creative competition
- > one-on-one conversations
- > a voting activity at the 2022 ACT Disability Expo.

The focused conversations reached into diverse parts of the community with shared experience. We engaged with women, young people, people who are ageing, carers, culturally diverse people, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Many community organisations supported the coordination of these events, which helped to reach people with disability and their supporters from many parts of the ACT community.

Of the 397 people who completed the YourSay online survey:

- > 57% were people with disability
- > 46% were family members or carers
- > 20% were service providers or advocates.

Many people identified with more than one. Thirty-three per cent of people with disability responding to the survey also cared for and/or had a family member with disability and 17% of people with disability also had a role as a service provider or advocate.

Of the survey respondents, 74% were female, 18% male and 4% non-binary.

The focus topics

During the consultation we had conversations about:

- > **Lifelong learning**
- > **Early childhood**
- > **Health and mental health**
- > **Decision making**
- > **Having a home**
- > **The experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability**
- > **Supports and services**
- > **Safety**
- > **Employment**
- > **Accessible communities**
- > **Justice**

In these focused conversations, the community talked about how they would like things to be, what challenges they faced, and their ideas for change.

Following the consultation, we investigated the evidence about what has worked in other jurisdictions.

A detailed summary of the community input on these focus topics, and an overview of the evidence, will be published in the full Consultation Report in January 2023. This will provide a strong foundation for actions to be included in the 10-year ACT Disability Strategy and 4-year Action Plan to be released in 2023.



What we heard

Top five challenges

- 1 Having **control** over things which affect your life / the life of people with disability
- 2 Finding and using **health care** services that are needed
- 3 Finding and getting good quality paid **supports and services**
- 4 Finding opportunities to **connect or socialise** with other people
- 5 Having **enough money** for everyday things

Top five areas for action

- 1 Health care provision
- 2 Disability supports and services
- 3 Having a safe and accessible home
- 4 Having a voice
- 5 Employment

Top five ideas

- 1 Having individual advocacy to support people with disability
- 2 Mandatory Disability Action and Inclusion Plans for organisations
- 3 More support in educational settings
- 4 Employment targets for employing people with disability
- 5 Increasing the confidence of employers to engage with people with disability

Systemic issues

Key issues we heard a lot about

- > Mainstream systems are too challenging to navigate
- > The impact of social isolation and lack of inclusion
- > Not enough of a voice in policies and decisions that affect us
- > Poor community attitudes to people with disability, stigma and discrimination
- > Lack of disability awareness and knowledge across many sectors
- > Financial disadvantage



What's **next?**

We are now talking to many parts of the ACT Government about what we have heard and what we can do to address the challenges raised by the community.

We are sharing the ideas and issues we heard from the community with our colleagues across government. We are working together to see how we can address these issues as one government.

We are continuing to work closely with the ACT Disability Reference Group to guide the creation of the 10-year ACT Disability Strategy and first 4-year Action Plan.

The full Consultation Report will be available in January 2023. It will provide detail on what we have heard from the community on every focus topic, as well as the evidence. The full Consultation Report will ensure the voices of people with disability are heard clearly and guide the next steps.

To find out more about the ACT Disability Strategy and other initiatives, policies and projects in Canberra scan the code or visit



www.yoursay.act.gov.au

