



# Disability Royal Commission Australia Government Response: Volume 6

## Enabling Autonomy and Access

Volume 6 examines the barriers that impact people with disability being able to exercise autonomy and access services and systems on an equal basis as others. It includes 41 recommendations, 24 of which are within the Australian Government’s primary or shared responsibility.

| Enabling Autonomy and Access  |                                  |
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| Recommendation  | Australian Government Response   |
| 6.1: National accessible communications plan  | Accept in principle              |
| 6.2: Increase the number of Auslan interpreters   | Accept in principle              |
| 6.3: Access to skilled and qualified interpreters   | Accept in principle              |
| 6.6: Supported decision-making principles   | Accept in principle              |
| 6.19: Data collection on support and representation arrangements  | Accept in principle              |
| 6.20: Interpretative declaration  | Subject to further consideration |
| 6.21 – 6.23: Advocacy   | Accept in principle              |
| 6.24 – 6.25: Health system capability regarding cognitive disability  | Accept in principle              |
| 6.26: Expand the role of the Health Ministers Meeting to monitor health workforce capability development      | Accept in principle              |
| 6.27: Establish regular progress reporting by accreditation authorities                                       | Accept in principle              |
| 6.28: Improve access to clinical placements in disability health services                                     | Accept in principle              |
| 6.29: Improve specialist training and continuing professional development in cognitive disability health care | Accept in principle              |
| 6.30: Expand the scope of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health                 | Note                             |
| 6.31: Embed the right to equitable access to health services in key policy instruments                        | 6.31a – Accept                   |

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|   | 6.31b – Accept in principle      |
| 6.32: Increase capacity to provide supports and adaptations through improved guidance, funding and accessible information | Accept in principle              |
| 6.34: Introduce disability health navigators to support navigation of health care for people with disability              | Accept in principle              |
| 6.37: Data collection and public reporting on psychotropic medication   | Accept                           |
| 6.38: Strengthening the evidence base on reducing and eliminating restrictive practices                                   | Accept in principle              |
| 6.39: Improving collection and reporting of restrictive practises data  | Accept in principle              |
| 6.40: Targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction and elimination of restrictive practises                  | Accept in principle              |
| 6.41: Legislative prohibition of non-therapeutic sterilisation  | Subject to further consideration |

## Key actions and initiatives

All governments have agreed to work together, and with the disability community, to:

- Develop an Associated Plan under *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31* to improve the accessibility of information and communications for people with disability. This will include strategies, initiatives and approaches to boost the Auslan and Deaf interpreter workforce.
- Build capability across the Australian Public Service for effective policy engagement, design and consultation with the disability community.
- Work closely with National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters to ensure new and currently credentialed interpreters have access to the necessary disability awareness training required to work effectively and appropriately with people with disability.
- Accelerate work to resolve data gaps in relation to the reporting requirements under *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031* Outcomes Framework by the end of 2024.
- Prioritise work on increasing culturally appropriate and accessible advocacy services for First Nations people with disability, people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and LGBTIQ+ people with disability.
- Support health professionals through improved training to provide better quality care to people with cognitive disability.
- Engage with professional bodies and regulatory authorities to establish regular progress reporting by accreditation authorities.
- Consider further opportunities for enhancing clinical placements in a variety of sectors, including disability.
- Review all policies and protocols to support an inclusive Australia that ensures people with disability have access to high-quality health care.
- Develop a nationally consistent health navigation framework to ensure people with disability have access to health care services that address their needs.

The Australian Government supports in-principle the National Disability Research Partnership to commission a longitudinal study of the impact of positive behaviour support and other strategies to reduce and eliminate restrictive practices.

The Disability Reform Ministerial Council will prioritise action to establish consistent targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices in the NDIS.

## Government investment

To support delivery of recommendations in Volume 6, the Australian Government has allocated:

- **\$12.3 million** to develop an Associated Plan under *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031* to improve national approaches to accessible information and communications for people with disability and build capability across the Australian Public Service for effective policy engagement, design and consultation.
- **\$39.7 million** in additional funding over four years to establish a new individual disability advocacy program.
- **\$3.7 million** to continue the Primary Care Enhancement Program and quality care for people with intellectual disability.
- **\$1.2 million** towards a whole-of-government approach to reduce and eliminate the use of restrictive practices.