



# Factsheet: Overview of the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023



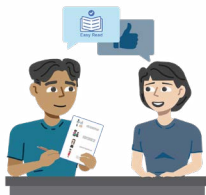
# Table of contents

About this fact sheet	<b>3</b>
What is the DSI Act?	<b>5</b>
Programs that can get money from the Government	<b>10</b>
Rules that service providers must follow to get money from the Government	<b>15</b>
Rules to help make sure the DSI Act is safe	<b>17</b>
If you want more information	<b>19</b>

## About this fact sheet



The Department of Social Services wrote this fact sheet. When you see the word 'we', it means the Department of Social Services.



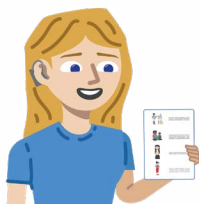
We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.



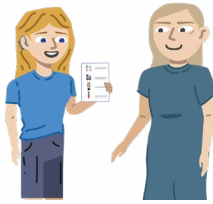
We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We will explain what these words mean.

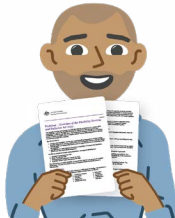


This Easy Read Fact sheet is a summary of another fact sheet. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet. A friend, family member or **support person** can help you.

A support person is someone who helps you with things you find hard to do by yourself.



This fact sheet is about the **Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023**. We call it the DSI Act.

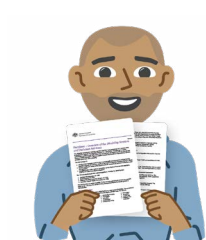
The DSI Act is a set of rules made by the Government.

It explains what services the Government can give people with disability.



The Government made the DSI Act for people with disability.

## What is the DSI Act?



The DSI Act replaces the old Disability Services Act 1986.

We call it the old Act.



The old Act used to work well.

But the way the Government helps people with disability has changed.



We listened to people with disability to find out what changes we should make.

We also listened to disability organisations and **service providers**.

A service provider is a person or organisation that helps people with disability to get the help they need to live the way they want.



The DSI Act tells us what we can and cannot do.

The rules in the DSI Act help keep everyone safe and make sure things are fair.



The DSI Act makes sure that the Government can keep paying for **disability supports and services**.

Disability supports and services help you to:

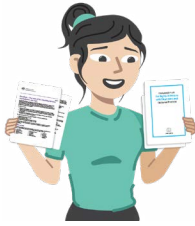
- Do things that you find hard to do by yourself.
- Feel part of the community.

You may be getting money from the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a way the Government pays for people with disability to get supports.

We call it the NDIS.

The DSI Act does not change what you get from the NDIS.



The DSI Act helps Australia to follow the **United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

We call it the CRPD.

The CRPD is an agreement between different countries.

It tells everyone how people must respect the **rights** of people with disability.

Rights are things that everyone should have or be able to do.

They are rules that help keep us safe and happy.

They make sure everyone is treated fairly.



The DSI Act follows the CRPD.

It makes sure that we respect the rights of people with disability.

It makes sure that our rules work well for people with disability.



The DSI Act works with other rules, like:

- Rules that make sure people with disability are treated the same as everyone else, like the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
- Rules that give money or support to people with disability, like the Social Security Act 1991 and the NDIS Act 2013.



The DSI Act says that supports and services can be used by any person with disability.

It does not make rules about who can get them.

When the Government makes a **program**, it can be for all people with disability or just some people with disability.

A program is a plan or activity that helps people.





Programs can:

- Teach new skills.
- Give support.
- Give services to people who need them.



The DSI Act says it is okay for a program to get money from the Government if it is for people with disability.

# Programs that can get money from the Government



The DSI Act says these programs can get money from the Government:



## Accessibility

These services help to make our community **accessible**.

When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- Find and use services.
- Understand and use information.
- Move around.



## Accommodation

These services help people with disability to find a place to live.



## **Advocacy**

These services help people with disability to speak about their thoughts or feelings.

They make sure your thoughts and needs are listened to.

They can help you to get what you need.



## **Capacity building**

These services help people with disability to do things on their own and make their lives better.



## **Carers**

These services help people who take care of people with disability.



## **Community inclusion**

These services help people with disability to be a part of their community.



## **Counselling**

These services help people with disability with their problems.

They will:

- Listen to you.
- Help you to find support.
- Help you to decide what to do.
- Help you to fix your problems.
- Help you to feel happy.



## **Education**

These services help people with disability to study and learn.



## Employment

These services help people with disability to find and keep a job.



## Independent living

These services help people with disability live on their own and do things for themselves in their own home.



## Information

These services help people with disability to get facts and understand things they want to know about.



## Recreation

These services help people with disability to do things for fun, like hobbies or sports.



## **Respite care**

Respite is when someone takes a break from caring for someone with disability.

These services help:

- People with disability.
- The people who care for them.

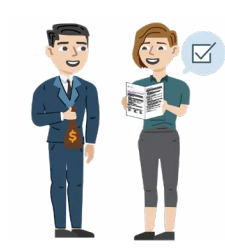


## **Research and evaluation**

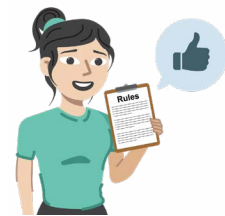
When we research and collect information, it helps to make sure:

- Services work well.
- We have good information about people with disability.

## Rules that service providers must follow to get money from the Government



There are rules in the DSI Act that service providers must follow to get money from the Government.

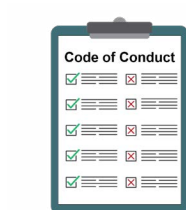


These rules make sure services are:

- Safe.
- Good quality.

These rules include:

- Following the **Code of Conduct**.



The Code of Conduct is a set of rules about how service providers and workers should behave.

It says they have to be safe and do the right thing.

It also says that if something goes wrong, they must fix it and make sure it does not go wrong again.



- Having a **certificate of compliance** for programs.

This means having a paper that shows you are following the rules by doing things the right way.



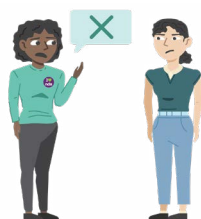
- Listening to complaints.

The service provider must listen and fix problems that people might have.



- Writing down if things go wrong.

The service provider must have a plan to take care of things if something goes wrong.



- If service providers are not allowed to work with the NDIS, the DSI Act will not allow them to get money from the Government as well.

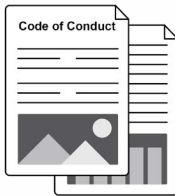


## Rules to help make sure the DSI Act is safe



There are 5 sets of rules, called **legislative instruments**.

A legislative instrument tells people how a set of rules should be followed and do things the right way.



The legislative instruments are:

- **Code of Conduct Instrument.**

This explains how to give services in a way that keeps everyone safe and treats everyone the same way.

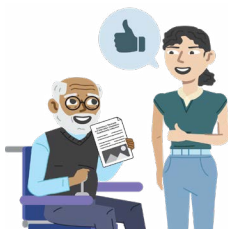


- **Regulated Activities Instrument.**

Some activities that get money from the DSI Act are harder to do and need extra rules.

These activities are called **regulated activities**.

This instrument helps to decide which activities need these extra rules.



- **Compliance Standards and Alternative Compliance Requirements Instrument.**

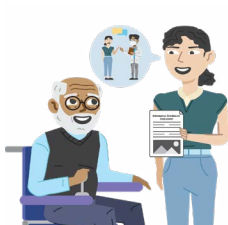
Compliance means following the rules.

Alternative compliance means following different rules if the Government says that you can.

This instrument tells everyone the rules that regulated activities must follow.

They are the main rules that all disability services must follow.

This instrument also includes extra rules that can be followed instead, if the Government says that you can.



- **Information Disclosure Instrument.**

Information disclosure means telling someone else about something you know or have.

This instrument tells everyone how and why some information can be used or shared.

## If you want more information



If you want more information about the DSI Act, you can visit our website.

[Information about the DSI Act:](#)

[www.dss.gov.au/dsi-act](http://www.dss.gov.au/dsi-act)

## How to contact us



**You can visit our website at**

[www.dss.gov.au/dsi-act](http://www.dss.gov.au/dsi-act).



**You can email us at**

[sector.engagement@dss.gov.au](mailto:sector.engagement@dss.gov.au).



**You can call us on**

1300 653 227.



easyread.tech created this Easy Read document using original illustrations. Please do not use these illustrations without permission. Visit [easyread.tech](http://easyread.tech) for more information.