DISABILITY REFORM MINISTERS' MEETING (DRMM) Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

COMMUNIQUÉ

Disability Reform Ministers are pleased to announce the release of *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031*.

The Strategy has been signed by the Prime Minister, First Ministers of all state and territory governments and the President of the Australian Local Government Association. This recognises the important role all levels of governments play to create an inclusive Australian society where people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community.

The launch of the Strategy today, on International Day of People with Disability, is the culmination of more than two years of collaborative work by all governments and extensive consultation with people with disability and the disability community.

The Strategy has been guided by the voices of people with disability. It will drive change over the next decade to uphold the rights, inclusion and participation of people with disability in all areas of Australian life.

The Strategy's Outcome Areas set out where governments at all levels, working with the community and business, will focus on driving improvements for people with disability. They represent the areas people with disability have said are important to them and need to be improved to achieve an inclusive Australian society.

The seven Outcome Areas are:

- o Employment and financial security: Providing jobs and career opportunities for people with disability.
- o Inclusive homes and communities: Increasing the number of accessible, affordable and well-designed homes and creating a community that is inclusive and accessible.
- o Safety, rights and justice: Ensuring the rights of people with disability are promoted, upheld and protected, and people with disability feel safe and enjoy equality before the law.
- o Personal and community support: Providing people with disability access to supports so they can live independently and engage in their communities.
- o Education and learning: Supporting people with disability access to education and learning throughout their lives so they reach their full potential.
- o Health and wellbeing: Increasing support and capability in the healthcare sector to meet the needs of people with disability, and ensuring disaster preparedness and emergency responses include the needs of people with disability.

o Community attitudes: Recognising the positive contribution people with disability make to society, and building confidence in the community to work and engage with people with disability

With the launch, membership of the Strategy's new Advisory Council was also announced. Council members are all people with disability with diverse experience and expertise. The Council will play an important role in advising governments on the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy. Council membership can be found here.

Ministers look forward to working with the Council and people with disability to implement the Strategy's commitments so that over the next ten years, everyone in Australia will be able to see real, tangible results being achieved.

Accessible versions of the Strategy, including Easy Read, Auslan and language translations can be found on the <u>Australia's Disability Strategy hub</u>.