



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



State Disability Strategy

Consultation Outcomes Paper

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Introduction

The State Disability Strategy is about supporting the development of an inclusive community where everyone is engaged, empowered and enjoys rights on an equal basis.

Inclusion will be an important driver of Western Australia's future prosperity. One in five Western Australians live with disability. However, they also have strengths, abilities and contributions that can enrich our community. For this to happen, it is essential that we address the barriers and restrictions they too often face in reaching their full potential in social, economic and civic life.

Western Australia has a proud history of advancing positive change for people with disability and has long been recognised as a leader in Australia. The State Disability Strategy represents an important next step that is only possible because of the courage, hard work and commitment of those who have gone before.

The State Disability Strategy is underpinned by a human rights-based approach in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This reflects an ongoing shift from approaches that defined people with disability as passive recipients of services, to a commitment to inclusion, equality and non-discrimination as essential rights, and fundamental to supporting the empowerment of the individual.

To achieve change across our community requires commitment and sustained action. It requires a willingness to challenge and be challenged about the status of people with disability and the type of community we want to build. This means everyone has a part to play including individuals, community, business, service providers and government.

What is the State Disability Strategy?

The State Disability Strategy (the Strategy) is a ten-year strategy that will support the inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of life.

The Strategy will:

- Set a vision for Western Australia, acknowledging and responding to the value of diversity within our community.
- Provide direction to enable all of us to create an inclusive community which celebrates and empowers everyone.
- Set out key priorities for change which will help provide the same opportunities for all.

The priorities of the Strategy will be based on what people with disability, their families and carers, service providers, business, local and state government have told us is most important to ensure change. Best practice, research and data will also be used to develop the Strategy.

The Strategy will link to the National Disability Strategy, relevant strategies under the National Disability Insurance Scheme and broader state government policies and initiatives.

Purpose of the Consultation Outcomes Paper

This Consultation Outcomes Paper provides a strong foundation for building the Strategy; detailing thoughts, concerns, hopes and priorities for the future as heard during the consultation process.

The Strategy will strive for positive and long-lasting change, allowing people with disability to live the lives they choose.

Consultation told us what matters in the lives of people with disability including the challenges and barriers faced every day. Over the years there have been many drivers of positive change. However, the consultation process clearly identified that people with disability, their families and carers continue to face many of the same barriers and frustrations they have experienced in the past.

The Strategy is based on the recognition that systemic change is required if we are to break this cycle. The Strategy is not just a statement of what our community should look like, but importantly how we can all contribute to delivering on its ambitions.

This paper details the Strategy's vision and values for achieving success and identifies Pillars for change. The Pillars outline key areas raised in the consultation feedback and how this will be considered in the Strategy.

The Pillars guide our focus and provide areas for future actions. These targeted Pillars will allow for responsiveness and adjustment to contemporary practice over the ten-year life of the Strategy.

We seek your feedback on what we heard through the consultation process that has led to these Pillars for change.

Working together

The Strategy is being co-designed by people with disability and is core to its development and implementation.

A Reference Group, including members from the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and the Disability Services Commission Board, contributes and provides guidance on the development of the Strategy.

In partnership with People With disability WA, a co-design group was established to explore and validate information from the consultation process.

We are also working with other government agencies to ensure a whole-of-government approach to the Strategy's development and implementation.

What has happened so far

To develop the Strategy, we have consulted in a number of ways including:

Defining a ten-year Vision

Public surveys and other methods helped to define the vision for an inclusive Western Australia over the next ten-years.

Exploring Our Community

Workshops and conversations were held across Western Australia to shape the values towards the development of the Strategy. We also heard about issues and challenges that people continue to face, desirable attitudes and behaviours for our community and areas for change. The co-design group explored the workshop findings to identify key themes to inform the next stage of consultation.

Building a ten-year Strategy

Workshops were held on the themes of housing, health, rights and justice, transport, support services, employment, education, and local community. These workshops were attended by individuals, service providers, business, and local and state government agencies. Other methods including an online survey were also available to gather input.

Individual consultation also occurred with groups of people including Aboriginal communities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with specific needs, families and siblings.

The engagement with the community, business, sector and government is a key part of the process to developing the Strategy and will be complemented with data, research and best practice findings.

Vision

The foundations of the Strategy's Vision came through the first phase of consultation. These findings have contributed to creating the Vision below.

People with disability, and those who share their lives, are engaged and feel empowered to live as they choose in a community where everyone belongs.

This means creating a community where people with disability:

- have equal opportunity and rights;
- are included and participate;
- are connected and contribute;
- can access their community;
- have greater autonomy;
- are leaders and influence change.

Values for Achieving Success

Following the community feedback on the Strategy's vision, the following statements represent the conditions that people with disability, their families and carers value from the WA Community and underpin all priorities and future actions of the Strategy.

Inclusion

Everyone has rights which enable participation.

Opportunity and Empowerment

Everyone is valued, can contribute and live life as they choose.

Respect

Everyone has a voice and freedom to make decisions about their lives.

Acceptance

People recognise and welcome the difference in others.

Integrity

The views and interests of people with disability are drivers of all actions.

Accountability

All actions are measured, and outcomes are reported.

Pillars for Change

The Pillars for Change are the essential foundation elements of the Strategy. They underpin the strategic intent and inform the objectives and deliverables that drive the Strategy.

The identification of these four Pillars were developed through the consultation and co-design process.

The Pillars are designed to be responsive to the contemporary practices and actions over the ten-year life of the Strategy particularly through an Action Plan, to be reviewed every two years via Progress Reports.

The Pillars for Change are:

1. Rights and Equality;
2. Inclusive Communities;
3. Participate and Contribute;
4. Living well.

The following sections describe the Pillars in more detail. Achieving the outcomes identified under the Pillars will require everyone's involvement and is a shared responsibility to realise the vision of the Strategy.

Pillar One: Rights and Equality

The rights of people with disability are recognised, respected and achieved.

What we heard is important

- Having responsive services and systems;
- Rights and protections are upheld;
- Someone to oversee and enforce rights;
- Empowered to be heard;
- Advocacy supports;
- Access to information.

What we learned from the consultations

- That systems and legislation need to change so that rights and protections, including safeguarding, are upheld;
- Having the voice of people with disability heard is essential to drive change;
- Locally-based information to connect people with disability in their community.

Key Ideas

- A formal mechanism to uphold, enforce and protect rights;
- Strengthening of advocacy services;
- Access to information in different ways.

Pillar Two: Inclusive Communities

Everyone takes responsibility for building an inclusive community.

What we heard is important

- Having access to facilities and buildings;
- Being able to get around the community;
- Having the right services and supports including technology;
- Recognition and support for families and carers;
- Access to healthcare;
- Recognition of mental health conditions;
- Having a suitable home.

What we learned from the consultations

- Physical and social barriers exist in the community including the built and natural environment;
- There is a need to improve access and outcomes in areas particularly health and mental health, housing, business, recreation and leisure;
- Access to services and supports at certain times in life is critical.

Key Ideas

- Promote and increase inclusion both physical and social;
- Liveable local communities which have universal and/or inclusive design;
- Improvement of access to transport options;
- Support inclusion through research and development initiatives such as assistive technology;
- Families and carers are supported;
- Support a range of housing options and availability;
- Local community initiatives leading and driving inclusion.

Pillar Three: Participate and Contribute

Prioritise active participation, contribution and leadership at all levels of people with disability in the community.

What we heard is important

- Being able to get a job;
- Being able to enjoy the community like everyone else;
- Having choice and support for education and learning;
- A need to improve awareness about disability;
- People with disability leading the way.

What we learned from the consultations

- There is a need to improve outcomes in areas that support participation in the community particularly education and employment;
- There are barriers to social, civic and economic participation;
- It is important for community perceptions about disability to change.

Key Ideas

- Having co-design processes as the basis for change;
- Prioritising leadership and representation of people with disability in all areas of the community;
- People with disability lead and drive social change in the community;
- Business, government and the community recognise the benefits and act to include people with disability in economic, social and civic participation;
- Strengthen learning outcomes through education and training of people with disability;
- Facilitate employment opportunities across all sectors and at all levels.

Pillar Four: Living Well

Empowerment to achieve meaning and purpose for a comfortable, healthy and happy life.

What we heard is important

- Having choice and control;
- Communities that are welcoming;
- Making connections that are meaningful and lasting;
- Having a sense of wellbeing.

What we learned from the consultations

- Everyone wants to belong and enjoy their life;
- Having connections in your local community is important to overcome social isolation;
- Having meaningful and natural relationships is important;
- Health and mental health is important for living well.

Key Ideas

- Communities drive initiatives to build social connectedness;
- Having an inclusive community which provides opportunities through social activities; such as culture and the arts, recreation, leisure, shared hobbies and tourism.

Developing the Strategy

To develop the Strategy we will:

- Continue to partner with people with disability, their families and carers through co-design;
- Reflect the life journey of people with lived experience, including where there may be support from service providers;
- Draw on the consultation information to inform focus areas;
- Use findings through evidence based best practice, data and research.

Through the life of the Strategy we will address:

- Social awareness and change;
- Diversity;
- Having access to services and supports regardless of location;
- Leadership from all including government, industry and the community to help bring change;
- Resourcing to promote, implement, monitor and report on the Strategy.

Accountability

Improving accountability regarding outcomes for people with disability is a key driver of the Strategy and being held accountable for everything we do is a priority. Accountability for our actions and the measuring of progress will be referenced in the Strategy.

We recognise current limitations in capturing, accessing and sharing data and information to evaluate outcomes of the Strategy. Developing strategies to address this will be addressed in the Action Plans.

Action Plan

The State Disability Strategy will be implemented through an Action Plan to be reviewed every two-years to identify the initiatives that need to be undertaken to achieve the goals of the Strategy.

All initiatives of the Action Plan will embed the following:

- Culture and diversity;
- Attention to geographic location and isolation;
- Understanding the experiences of specific groups;
- Supporting transition points in a person's life.

What to expect next

The State Disability Strategy will be launched in 2020. The Action Plan will be implemented from 1 July 2020 and will focus on local community solutions.

You can keep up to date on developments at the Department of Communities' [State Disability Strategy webpage](#).

Or contact us on **(08) 6167 8899** or statedisabilityplan@communities.wa.gov.au.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the Strategy's development so far.