



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

**Australia's  
Disability  
Strategy**  
2021-2031

Creating  
an inclusive  
community  
together

# Australia's Disability Strategy

2021-2031

Outcomes Framework

First annual report summary

The AIHW is an independent statutory Australian Government agency producing authoritative and accessible information and statistics to inform and support better policy and service delivery decisions, leading to better health and wellbeing for all Australians.

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ISBN 978-1-922802-57-6 (Online)

ISBN 978-1-922802-58-3 (Print)

**Suggested citation**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 Outcomes Framework: First annual report summary*, catalogue number ADS 2, AIHW, Australian Government.

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Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Please note that there is the potential for minor revisions of data in this report.  
Please check the online version at [www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au) for any amendments.

# Summary

The Outcomes Framework is a key initiative under **Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031** (the Strategy) to measure, track and report on outcomes for people with disability over the life of the Strategy. Annual reporting against the measures in the Outcomes Framework will show what progress is being made on outcomes for people with disability.



The Strategy has **7 outcome areas**. These represent those areas that people with disability have said need to improve to achieve the Strategy's vision for an inclusive Australian society – one that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community.

## Outcome areas



Employment and financial security



Inclusive homes and communities



Safety, rights and justice



Personal and community support



Education and learning



Health and wellbeing



Community attitudes

The Outcomes Framework has 85 measures across the 7 outcome areas of the Strategy and **3 types of measures**.

### System measures

These track the contribution that key systems, such as health care, housing, education, and employment, are making to achieve outcomes.

### Population measures

These track the changes in outcomes over time for people with disability.

### Community attitudes measures

These track the change in attitudes towards people with disability, and how people with disability experience community attitudes.

The purpose of this initial annual report is to provide an overview of the status of the Outcomes Framework measures at 'baseline', namely at the closest point in time to the start of the Strategy in December 2021. Baseline data are the data against which updated annual and (where available) quarterly data for each of the measures will be compared over the life of the Strategy.

This report also includes time series analysis (where data permit) for the period up to and including the baseline data point. This provides a context for the reporting of the baseline value and updated results.

## How were people with disability faring at baseline?

For this initial annual report, baseline data are available for 47 launch measures, with historical data also available for 45 of these. The number of data points available for these historical data varies from 2 to 10 points in time.

## Key findings

Favourable trends before baseline:



The **average time waited for public housing** by newly allocated households with a member with disability was **413 days** in 2020–21, a **decrease** from **580 days** in 2011–12.

System measure



More than **7 in 10** (72%) **disability discrimination complaints** that underwent an Australian Human Rights Commission conciliation process were **successfully resolved** in 2020–21 compared with just over **6 in 10** (62%) in 2011–12.

System measure



More than **2 in 5** (45%) people with disability aged 20–64 had **completed Year 12** (or equivalent) in 2018 compared with fewer than **2 in 5** (37%) in 2012.

Population measure

Unfavourable trends before baseline:



There was **no real change** in the **unemployment rate gap** between people with disability and people without disability between 2012 and 2018 (4.0 and 4.7 percentage points, respectively, for people aged 15 and over).

Population measure



Just over **4 in 5** (82%) specialist homelessness services clients with disability who were **experiencing domestic and family violence** were **provided assistance for accommodation** when needed in 2020–21 compared with 87% in 2013–14.

System measure



Around **1 in 7** (14%) people with disability aged 5 and over had **difficulty accessing medical facilities** in 2018 compared with 11% in 2015.

Population measure

## Was there variation for different groups?

Results at baseline varied based on age, gender and severity of disability.



People with **severe or profound disability** aged 5 and over were **less likely** to have participated in **community and social activities** (90%) than people with other disability status (97%) in 2018.

Population measure



A higher proportion of **male than female** jobseekers with disability aged 15 and over (using jobactive) **obtained a job placement** in a 12-month period that was sustained for at least 26 weeks (8.3% and 6.5%, respectively) in 2020–21.

System measure



A higher proportion of **female than male** vocational education and training graduates with disability aged 15 and over were **employed on completion of their training** (53% and 50%, respectively) in 2021.

System measure



Almost 1 in 2 (49%) people with disability aged 18–24 were experiencing **high or very high levels of psychological distress** in 2018 compared with 2 in 5 (40%) aged 45–64 and fewer than 1 in 5 (19%) aged 65 and over.

Population measure

## How are things tracking 6 months into the Strategy?

Of the 47 launch measures with data, 11 had updated data since the baseline. Results for updated data are preliminary as they cover only the first 6 months of the Strategy rather than a full year. Many of the changes are small, which should be taken into account when considering the results. The updated measures are predominantly from National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) data collections, as these have the most recent data updates.



Just over **1 in 5** (21%) **NDIS participants in the labour force** aged 15–64 were in **open employment at full award wage** in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2021–22 compared with 20% in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021–22.

Population measure



Just under **2 in 3** (65.1%) **NDIS participants** aged 15–64 reported **spending their free time doing activities that interested them** in 2021–22 Q4 compared with 65.5% in 2021–22 Q2.

System measure



Just over **3 in 4** (76%) **NDIS participants** aged 15–64 reported that the **NDIS had helped them to have more choice and control over their lives** after 2 years in the scheme in 2021–22 Q4 compared with 75% in 2021–22 Q2.

System measure

## Future plans

The next annual report with data updates will be released in late 2023. Data updates will also be released quarterly on the [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework webpages](#), with the first release scheduled for March 2023.

People with disability were clear that they did not want the Strategy reporting to be limited to data that were available at launch. For this reason, the future measures in the Outcomes Framework were designed to be developed over the life of the Strategy. For more details on the government approach to developing these measures, including agreed plans for reporting on future measures, see the Strategy's [Data Improvement Plan](#).

