



**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

3<sup>rd</sup> annual report summary

**The AIHW is a corporate Commonwealth entity producing authoritative and accessible information and statistics to inform and support better policy and service delivery decisions, leading to better health and wellbeing.**

© The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2025



All material presented in this document is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence, with the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms (the terms of use for the Coat of Arms are available at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/commonwealth-coat-arms>) or any material owned by third parties, including for example, design, layout or images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. All reasonable efforts have been made to identify and label material owned by third parties.

The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website (available at <https://creativecommons.org>), as is the full legal code for the CC BY 4.0 license.

A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Institute's website [www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au).

ISBN 978-1-923272-26-2 (Online)

ISBN 978-1-923272-27-9 (Print)

### **Suggested citation**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2025) *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 Outcomes Framework: 3<sup>rd</sup> annual report summary*, catalogue number ADS 6, AIHW, Australian Government.

### **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**

Board Chair

The Hon Nicola Roxon

Chief Executive Officer

Dr Zoran Bolevich

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

GPO Box 570

Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6244 1000

Email: [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au)

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 outcomes for people with disability. Annual reporting against the measures in the Outcomes Framework will show what progress is being made on outcomes for people with disability.

This summary is for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual report on the Strategy's Outcomes Framework. It provides an overview of the progress being made on outcomes for people with disability in 2024.



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

## Spotlight on women with disability

- In 2023–24 Q4 61% of female NDIS participants (aged 15–64) get the support they need to do their job, compared with 64% of males.
- In 2022, 90% of females did not experience discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months.
- In 2022, 67% of females reported excellent, very good or good health compared to 95% of females without disability.
- 84% of young females in the labour force were employed in 2022, compared with 79% in 2018.

Notes:

1. The data in this box come from different data sources.
2. Data sources may collect information based on a person's gender identity, or on sex recorded at birth. Therefore, some people referred to as 'female' may not identify with this term.

The Outcomes Framework included a list of 85 measures at the launch of the Strategy in 2021. The measures were identified in consultation with the disability community. People with disability wanted the Outcomes Framework to include measures that could be reported on at the launch of the Strategy and in the future as new data became available. Governments will work together to create and improve data so these measures can be reported. For example, since July 2024, data about Autistic people with disability have been added to the [Outcomes Framework webpages](#).

## Highlights from 2024

In 2024, 36 measures have updated post-baseline data. Twenty measures were given a progress status update for the first time, including 18 measures from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC).

For the 36 measures with updated post-baseline data:

- 12 show improving
- 12 show no change
- 12 show regress

## The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) throughout Australia.

The survey collects information from three target populations:

- people with disability
- older people (i.e. those aged 65 years and over)
- people who care for persons with disability, long-term health conditions or older people.

In October 2024, data from the SDAC were able to be used to inform the progress of 18 measures in the Outcomes Framework for the first time.

- In 2022, just under 3 in 5 people with disability aged 20–64 had completed Year 12 or equivalent
- 80% of young people aged 15–24 with disability in the labour force were employed in 2022
- 9 in 10 people with disability reported in 2022 they have not experienced discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months
- 63% of all people with disability said they can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty in 2022.

## Measures that are **improving**



### **Employment and financial security**

Around 25,000 valid claims were created for a 52-week employment outcome by a person with disability in 2023–24 compared to baseline (16,041 in 2020–21).



### **Personal and community support**

More than 3 in 4 (78%) NDIS participants aged 15–64 felt NDIS helped them have more choice and control after two years in the scheme in the fourth quarter of 2023–24 compared to baseline (75% in second quarter of 2021–22).



### **Education and learning**

The proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling who had disability was similar to the proportion of children with disability aged 4–5 years in the community (7.6% in community and 7.1% in preschool).

## Measures that show **no change**



### **Employment and financial security**

There was no real change in the proportion of Australian Public Service employees with disability between baseline (December 2021) and December 2023 (5.0% and 5.2% respectively).



### **Safety, rights and justice**

There was no real change in NDIS participants who felt able to advocate (stand up) for themselves between baseline (second quarter 2021–22) and the fourth quarter of 2023–24 (37% and 38% respectively).



### **Health and wellbeing**

There was no real change in the proportion of adults with disability with high or very high levels of psychological distress (31% in 2018 and 2022).

## Measures that show **regress**



### **Inclusive homes and communities**

The proportion of NDIS participants who are happy with their current home was lower in the fourth quarter of 2023–24 (72.7%) compared to baseline (second quarter of 2021–22; 73.4%).



### **Inclusive homes and communities**

The proportion of people with disability who can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty was lower in 2022 (63%) than in 2018 (66%).



### **Health and wellbeing**

The proportion of people with disability who reported that they did not go to hospital when they needed to (2022; 14%) has increased since baseline (2018; 10%).

## How is progress measured?

Where data are available for a measure for 2 or more points in time it is possible to report on whether change has occurred for that measure.

Data from the closest point in time to when the Strategy started are used to provide the initial view for reported measures. These data are referred to as the 'baseline'.

As more data for each measure become available these are reported alongside the baseline data.

The status of a measure is decided by comparing the baseline and the latest report data. The status shows if there has been change, and the direction of the change.

- Improving: the measure is moving in the direction the Strategy wants
- No Change: the latest data are similar to the baseline
- Regress: the measure is not moving in the direction the Strategy wants.

For some measures, data are also included for periods prior to the start of the Strategy to provide additional context when interpreting the data.

Since launching the Strategy in 2021, there have been 43 measures with updated post-baseline data. Of these measures:

- 14 show improving
- 16 show no change
- 13 show regress.

## Future plans

The next (4<sup>th</sup>) annual report with data updates will be released in early 2026. In the meantime, data updates will also be released quarterly on the **Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework** webpages, with the next release scheduled for April 2025.

People with disability were clear that they did not want the Strategy reporting to be limited to data that were available at launch. For more details on the government approach to developing future measures, see the Strategy's **Data Improvement Plan**.

