

New Disability Inclusion Legislation

Fact Sheet One

Overview of Disability Inclusion Bill

What is happening?

The State Government intends to introduce new disability legislation that has a focus on improving access and inclusion for South Australians with disability to ensure that all citizens can participate in their communities.

Under the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the State Government will no longer directly fund services. Instead, the National Disability Insurance Agency will work with eligible individuals to create a personal budget to pay for their chosen services and support. The Disability Services Act 1993 will therefore no longer be required.

Feedback is sought on the draft Disability Inclusion Bill.

What are the key features of the Bill?

The draft Disability Inclusion Bill proposes to set out the role of the State Government in promoting the rights and inclusion of South Australians with disability in line with the National Disability Strategy (NDS), which all Australian Governments have signed up to.

We know from past consultations that informed the NDS and the State Government's Strong Voices report that people with disability clearly want action taken to ensure equal access and inclusion in all aspects of community and social life.

The draft Disability Inclusion Bill has a whole-of-government approach. This means all of State Government and includes things like public transport, education, justice, healthcare, housing, community events and public spaces. State Government Departments are already doing much in this area. The draft Disability Inclusion Bill aims to strengthen current requirements for ensuring services and facilities are accessible and responsive to people with disability.

Disability access and inclusion planning is a key requirement of the draft Disability Inclusion Bill. It is proposed that a State Disability Inclusion Plan will be developed every four years in consultation with people with disability.



It is also proposed that State Government departments, statutory authorities and local councils develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan every four years in consultation with people with disability.

For more information about disability access and inclusion planning, please see fact sheet two.

The draft Disability Inclusion Bill proposes to give the Minister power to make regulations that support a range of principles and objectives. This will ensure that regulations can be made in the future if they are required.

It is also proposed that the new legislation is reviewed no more than three years after it commences. This review will be done in consultation with people with disability. It will provide an important opportunity to see how the big changes under the NDIS are going and whether the new legislation is working well.

Engagement process

We would like to hear your feedback about the draft Disability Inclusion Bill. Your ideas are welcome and encouraged.

It may not be possible to incorporate all feedback into the new Bill. Some ideas might be better addressed through policies, or through collaboration with other agencies and providers responsible for mainstream services. Your input will help shape this work.

There will also be opportunities to provide feedback when the new legislation is reviewed in three years and we have a better idea of how things are working under the NDIS.

We will listen to what you have to say and at the end of the engagement process we will explain how we have used your feedback.

