

Towards an all abilities Queensland

What people told us about our State Disability Plan

Easy Read version



How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This document has been written by the Queensland Government. When you see the word 'we', it means the Queensland Government.



Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 31.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/community-involvement/disability-state-plan-2017-2020



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is this document about?



We want Queenslanders with disability to have the same opportunities as everyone else.

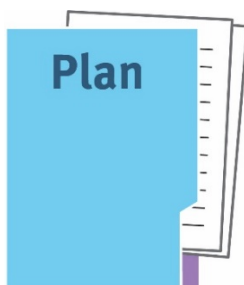


We want to build communities that are **inclusive** – people with disability:

- can take part
- are welcomed
- are involved.



We are making a new State Disability Plan.



In this document, we call it the Plan.

Between August 2016 and April 2017, we asked Queenslanders to tell us:



- what the Plan should be about



- what we should do.



More than 1000 people shared their ideas with us.



This document explains what they said.

Who shared their ideas with us?



We received 543 **submissions** – when somebody tells us what they think should be in the new Plan.

Most of these were from:



- people with disability



- family members



- carers.

We also heard from:



- disability service providers



- local governments



- community organisations



- businesses



- schools, TAFEs and universities



- disability advisory councils



- support groups in the Queenslanders with Disability Network.

What did you tell us?

The consultation paper explained our goals:



- everyone in Queensland can live the life they choose



- people with disability have the same opportunities and choices as everyone else.

The consultation paper talked about 5 important areas:



1. Relationships



2. Having fun



3. Working and learning



4. Everyday services



5. Leadership

People told us that in all 5 areas, Queenslanders need to:



- develop positive **attitudes** – ways of thinking about people with disability



- better understand what life is like for people with disability



- improve **access** – to be able to enter a place or use a service – for people with disability.

Priority 1: Relationships



People told us what people with disability need so they can build:

- relationships
- friendships
- connections with others.

In their community, they need to feel:



- accepted



- welcome



- valued.

They need:



- strength and determination



- willingness to take part



- support from family and friends



- access to services.

People find it hard to build relationships and connect with their community when they:



- don't have support



- can't get to places they want to go to



- can't get the services they need.



People will only take part in community events if they can get information about them.



This is an issue for people living in areas away from cities.

People also said that they didn't take part because they had fears about:



- their health and safety



- **discrimination** – being treated unfairly because they are different.

Priority 2: Having fun



We asked people what activities were important to them.

People told us they care about:



- going out with family and friends



- holidays

- taking part in:



- sport



- music



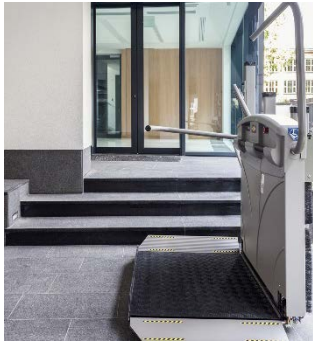
- arts



- cultural festivals



- events.



Accessibility is important for people with disability to take part in activities.

Accessibility means something is **accessible** – you can:



- enter a place or building
- use a service
- get information.

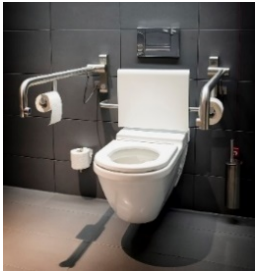


Accessible transport makes it easier for people with disability to attend events.



For people with disability to have fun, places need to be accessible.

They should have:



- accessible toilets



- changing places for adults with high physical support needs

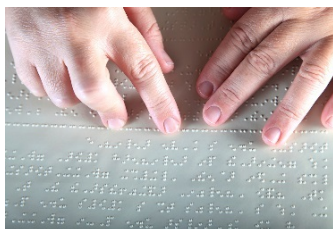
Organisations can help by:



- providing support such as beach access for wheelchairs



- promoting events and activities



- providing information in different formats



- training staff so they understand the needs of people with disability.



Arts and cultural organisations want more people with disability to be involved.



They are working with disability organisations to make arts and cultural activities more:

- accessible
- inclusive.

Priority 3: Working and learning

Working



Workplaces can support people with disability to reach their goals at work.



People told us it was important to have inclusion and accessibility **policies** – plans for how things should be done.



People told us that training and mentoring are important for everyone in the workplace.

We can teach businesses about:



- the benefits of giving people with disability jobs



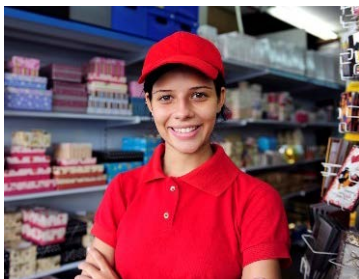
- flexible ways to employ people



- focusing on people's abilities.



This will give people with disability a better chance of getting a job.



We can also help people with disability start their own businesses.

People told us that there is a lack of support from job agencies to help people with disability:



- find jobs



- build skills.

There are not enough opportunities for people with disability to get work experience, especially:



- people who live in areas away from cities



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

Students with disability can get work experience with more support from:



- the government
- schools
- training organisations
- universities
- businesses.

Some businesses told us they have been working to employ more people with disability by:



- developing plans for including people with a range of abilities as:
 - workers
 - customers
- making changes to how they:
 - employ people
 - match people with workplaces
 - build inclusive workplaces.



Learning

People with disability need support to achieve their learning goals from:



- family
- friends
- carers
- teachers
- support workers.



Families and schools need to have good relationships and connections.

Schools should:



- be welcoming and supportive of students with disability



- help parents get involved in making decisions about their child's learning.

There is also a need for specialist programs for children with disability including:



- before and after school care



- vacation care and school holiday programs.



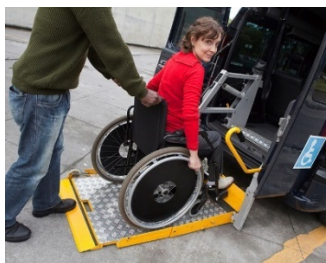
The cost of these programs can stop children with disability from achieving their learning goals.



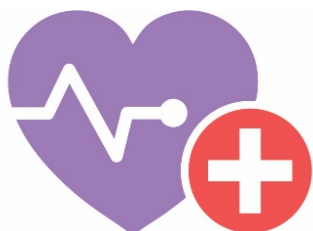
There is also a lack of learning opportunities for adults with disability who live in areas away from cities.

Priority 4: Everyday services

People with disability rely on important services in their everyday life, such as



- transport



- health.

They also need services like:



- wheelchair taxis



- the National Relay Service



- mobility maps.

People with disability face barriers because of things that aren't accessible, including:



- buildings and places



- services and information.

Governments and organisations can make their buildings and places more accessible by:



- providing more accessible toilets



- having quiet spaces



- offering accessible transport.

Services can be improved by:



- being flexible and meeting the needs of people with disability



- using interpreters



- training staff to be aware of:
 - types of disability
 - the impact they have.

People also told us that there are not enough services that meet the needs of:



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



- people from different cultures



- people who speak languages other than English.

Priority 5: Leadership

For people with disability to be leaders in the community, they need support from:



- family



- friends



- role models



- employers.

People with disability can get involved in making decisions by becoming a member of:



- a board



- a committee.

Some people said it is hard to get involved because they:



- aren't confident



- worry about public speaking



- have health issues

- don't have enough:



- time



- opportunities.

Organisations can support people with disability by:



- giving them a say in:
 - planning
 - projects
 - services



- including them on committees and boards.

It is good for everyone to:



- empower people with disability to get involved in decision making



- build the skills of people with disability so they can be good leaders.

Other areas and tools to involve people with disability

People told us that we should also think about:



- the rights of people with disability



- helping people with disability stand up for their rights.



- how to help organisations be
 - inclusive
 - welcoming



- helping organisations plan and achieve their goals for including people with disability.

Word list



Access

To be able to enter a place or use a service.



Accessible/Accessibility

You can:

- enter a place or building
- use a service
- get information.



Attitudes

Ways of thinking.



Discrimination

Being treated differently because you are different.



Inclusive

People with disability:

- can take part
- are welcomed
- are involved.



Policies

Plans for how things should be done.



Submissions

When somebody tells us what they think should be in the new Plan.

Contact us



13 74 68



towardsanabilitiesqld@communities.qld.gov.au

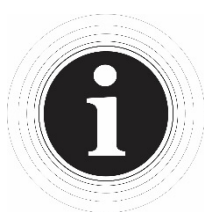


Policy and Legislation

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Disability Services

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