

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

Northern Territory Disability Strategy Action Plan 2022-2025

TERRITORY FAMILIES,
HOUSING AND
COMMUNITIES



We're making progress against the Disability Strategy Action Plan 2022-2025. The Action Plan includes:

 **5** Outcomes  **27** Priorities  **118** Actions

 **7** Accountability mechanisms

Vision

An inclusive Territory where people with disability are valued, respected and can contribute to community, no matter where we live.

The 10-year Northern Territory Disability Strategy 2022-2032 (the Strategy) and associated three year Action Plan 2022-2025 (the Action Plan) were launched in August 2022. The first Action Plan lays the foundation for the implementation strategy, and this progress report captures the first steps in our journey to become a more inclusive Territory. It captures some of the key achievements and progress from the first nine months.

The work we do complements and reinforces various international, national and Territory commitments, legislation, and policies to holistically contribute to improved outcomes for people with disability. Both the Strategy and Action Plan closely align with Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 and associated Targeted Action Plans.

Some highlights have been captured along the way and these case studies and good news stories are showcased throughout.

- 10
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
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We are 1 year into a 10 year plan

Minister's Message

The Northern Territory Government is working towards a more inclusive Territory and this progress report showcases the work that is well underway.

Our Territory is unique. We have a vast landscape, high proportion of people living in regional and remote towns and communities and we are one of Australia's most culturally diverse places. While this presents challenges, it also presents opportunities for some truly exceptional and transformative initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the many milestones and successes already achieved.



The Hon Ngaree Ah Kit MLA
Minister for Disabilities



250,149
people in NT



More than **1 in 9**
living with disability



One fifth of people with disability in the NT currently access support through the NDIS

Outcome 1: People with disability have rights and choices which are protected and respected



29 Actions

4 Short-term | 8 Medium-term | 5 Long-term | 12 Ongoing

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Empowering People with Disability

Domestic and Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework

The Northern Territory Domestic and Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework guides and strengthens responses to domestic and family violence for people at risk of harm, including people with disability.

Using a consistent and evidence-based process, relevant organisations and services can better assess, respond and manage risk, and support the Territory's 'no wrong door' concept.

Training sessions have been held regularly across the Territory and online resources for the Framework continue to be expanded and tailored to the Territory's unique demographic.

The resources include various practice guides and tools such as the Common Risk Assessment Tool.

Review of the *Disability Services Act 1993*

The Northern Territory Government committed to review the current legislation to ensure it reflects the contemporary landscape of disability.

The *Disability Services Act 1993* is intended to assist people with disability to receive services necessary to enable them to work towards full participation as members of the community.

Preliminary work has commenced on the review and will consider findings and recommendations from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and National Disability Insurance Scheme Review. The collaborative review of the Act will ensure it is holistic and adequately interconnects with other legislation both locally and nationally.



Advocacy Initiatives

Student Advocacy Services

The Student Advocacy Service has supported 58 students to negotiate with their school about the required provision of adjustments this year. Initially a trial, the Student Advocacy Service was reviewed and evaluated in October 2022.

A program toolkit is to be developed as a result of the review, giving service providers clear and consistent information about the purpose of the Service, practical advice and guidance in managing the Service, and adaptable tools and templates to meet operational needs.



58 students were supported by the Student Advocacy Service

Youth Crew

A youth advisory group, Youth Crew, made up of students from across the Territory has been established to provide student voice and advice to the Department of Education on policy priorities and strategies. This group has student representation from special education settings as well as urban rural and remote schools (Years 9 to 12). The group has met four times since January 2023.

Youth Round Table

The Youth Round Table has 18 members who represent the rich diversity of the Territory. Members are selected to take part each year through an open recruitment process. The current membership includes people with disability and/or mental health conditions. Extensive promotion, regional and school visits and network meetings were held in 2022-23 to encourage a diverse mix of young people to apply.



18 members in the Youth Round Table

Specialist Services in Corrections

Access to Services

In 2022-23, 39 referrals and appointments for various allied health and specialist services have been provided to people upon discharge from Darwin Correctional Centre.

All persons in custody in the Territory have the same access to referrals to allied health services and specialists as that in the community. Prison Health co-ordinate referrals and appointments, and there is a current guideline and Standard Operating Procedure being developed jointly by NT Health and Northern Territory Correctional Services.



39 referrals and appointments for various allied health and specialist services have been provided

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Resources for First Responders

Educational Resources for Staff

Respectful Workplace Training along with Respect, Equity and Diversity Training have been provided to employees to ensure inclusion across the agency.

Tools and resources are updated regularly to ensure practices continue to promote disability access and inclusion.

Co-Response to Mental Health Emergencies

Work is ongoing to secure the expansion of a pilot co-response model, initially developed in October 2020, as an ongoing initiative. The Co-Response Unit for the Darwin Region is based at the Casuarina Police Station and resourced by St John Ambulance,

Top End Mental Health and NT Police.

The Unit is trained specifically for treatment and improved experiences for people in crisis suffering from acute mental health episodes in the community.

Accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations

NT Government agencies will continue to work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to facilitate better access to NDIS.

Through community and stakeholder engagement, issues impacting service delivery in regional and remote communities

continues to be highlighted.

Local service providers, health based organisations, people with disability, their carers and family members have the opportunity to discuss their concerns honestly and openly to allow for productive engagement.

The NDIS Independent Review Panel visited the Northern Territory remote and very remote communities of Maningrida, Groote Eylandt, Tennant Creek, Alekerenge and Alice Springs to gain a better understanding of remote service delivery and the challenges of thin markets.

Findings released indicate the difficulty people in remote and very remote communities have in navigating the NDIS and highlight the lack of understanding of what supports are available.

HIGHLIGHT

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities fund four organisations to provide advocacy services to people with disability, their families and carers. Services are designed to enable people with disability to increase the control over their lives through the representation of their interest and views in

the community and may involve individual, group or systemic advocacy.

These organisations include:

- Integrated disAbility Action Inc
- Darwin Community Legal Service
- Carers NT
- Disability Advocacy Service



Outcome 2: People with disability are included and can engage, participate and contribute to community life



24 Actions

2 Short-term | 5 Medium-term | 1 Long-term | 16 Ongoing

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Breaking Down Barriers

Volunteer Management Survey

Volunteering NT has commenced work to gauge community composition of volunteers active within organisations and to identify barriers experienced by volunteer managers, including people with disability. In the 2023-24 reporting period, a Volunteer Management Survey will be released and analysis expected by late 2023.

Companion Card

Integrated disAbility Action (IdA) Inc administers the NT Companion Card on behalf of the NT Government.

In 2022-23 we saw a significant increase in Companion Card holders as well as additional participating businesses, known as affiliates. IdA promotes the card on their website and at various forums, expos and events across the Territory.

Last year

884 total cardholders

57 Affiliates

This year

1005 total cardholders

66 Affiliates



13.5% increase in cardholders this year

The nationally consistent program commenced in 2009 to recognise and alleviate disadvantage experienced by people with disability requiring attendant care in order to attend events and activities. Participating businesses provide free entry for a carer upon presentation of the NT Companion Card. For more information or to become an affiliate, visit the NT Companion Card website.

Increasing Access to the Arts

Planning is underway to identify opportunities and support for increased access to the arts for people with disability. This work aims to increase the capacity, profile and employment of artists with disability, and increase access to the arts for audiences with disability with a view to new grant opportunities and initiatives being made available in the next reporting period.

Through the Leading Arts Organisation category of the NT Arts Grants Program, annual funding is provided to arts programs and services that directly benefit artists with disability across the Territory. Three Arts Access Australia State Member organisations represent the Territory:

- Darwin Community Arts - Greater Darwin Region
- Katherine Regional Arts - Big Rivers Region
- Incite Arts - Central Australia

Darwin Community Arts and Incite Arts deliver the annual NT Arts Access Awards celebrate the achievements of artists with disability and also the individuals, groups and organisations who work to improve accessibility in the creative arts for people with disability.

Sport and Recreation Initiatives

Grant funding agreements with sport and active recreation providers contain project deliverables for the development of disability participation programs. Planning has commenced to expand this to include the 7 Pillars of Inclusion, a broad framework for sporting clubs and associations to address inclusion and diversity.

Some of the initiatives funded include:

- Total Recreation and Disability Sport Australia (NT Office) to support the sector to develop and run programs and other activities for people with disability
- Total Recreation to partner with Special Olympics Australia (SOA) to introduce an SOA pathway and footprint in the Territory
- NT Sports Academy Workforce Development grants provide funding to support people with disability to engage in coaching, officiating and other key roles involved in delivering sporting activities.

Increasing Awareness and Acceptance

Accessible Planning and Events

The City of Darwin Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022 is a valuable resource for the past four years that has supported the work of the Council including the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee that make recommendations to Council representing access and inclusion needs of the Darwin community.

It also supports the work of the DiversAbility Collective, a network of organisations from the disability and social services sectors that meet every two months to support information sharing, coordinate events and promote inclusivity across the city.

One of the key events held each year is the Carnival of Fun, celebrating International Day of People with Disability on 3 December. Organised in conjunction with Integrated disAbility Action Inc, the festivities include games, fun activities, entertainment, food and drinks. Presented at the Carnival of Fun alongside the NT Arts Access Awards, the City of Darwin also supports inclusivity through the annual Lord Mayoral Awards recognising people with disability who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Award Winning Spaces

Completed in 2022 by the City of Darwin, the Jingili Regional Playground upgrade was a finalist in the 2022 Playspace Award (>\$0.5M) at the Parks and Leisure Australia National Awards of Excellence.

Nationally recognised for its unique modified equipment that ensures everyone regardless of ability can share the same equipment or play side by side, it also innovatively combines art and play with the work of various artists, including people with disability, featured on surfaces throughout.

Carers and Decision Makers Matter

Supporting Private Guardians

In 2022-23, 174 Private Guardians have been supported to make decisions for an adult with impaired decision-making capacity. In addition to individualised follow up, nine newsletters have been distributed and 21 education and information sessions were held across Darwin and Alice Springs.



9 newsletters have been distributed

21 education and information sessions were held



CASE STUDY

Alice Springs Town Council Mayoral Awards

In December 2022, Alice Springs Town Council held their annual Mayoral Awards to highlight the contributions made by individuals with disability and by individuals for disability communities. There were three Award categories: Champion Award, Noteworthy Award and the Michele Castagna Medal. The Award winners were chosen from a list of outstanding nominations.

Kevron Foster won the 2022 Noteworthy Award, given to a

person with disability who has made a noteworthy contribution to the community. Kevron was on the Committee of Students who contributed to the review of the Disability Standards for Education and involved in the development the Northern Territory Disability Strategy 2022 – 2032. He is launching his own Rowdy Birds DJ Band, loves learning Ceramics and also volunteers at Foodbank and Vinnies. Kevron is well-known and well-respected in the community for his outstanding energy and a great attitude.



Outcome 3: People with disability can access the places, information and services they need



22 Actions

1 Short-term | 2 Medium-term | 1 Long-term | 18 Ongoing

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

More Appropriate Housing

Housing Design

Continued increase in the availability of public housing that meets universal design principles with all new housing to be compliant with Australian Standards (AS4299-1995 Appendix A Class C (Essential Features)) and Liveable Housing Design Guidelines (Fourth Edition Silver Level (2017)). Current public housing that partially meets the standards will be progressively updated to ensure minimum compliance is achieved.

Accessible Remote Housing

Increasing accessible remote housing stock for people living in remote communities through the Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes - a joint NT and Australian Government initiative over ten years. Since 2017, more than 1049 new homes have been constructed. This includes 245 homes constructed during 2022-23.

While all housing currently being designed, and most under construction, meet minimum standards and guidelines, 30 of these new homes have specific disability modifications allowing for increased accessibility.¹

Specialist Disability Accommodation

In early 2023, three new Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Land Grants were awarded to community housing providers for the construction of two SDA houses in Darwin's northern suburbs and one in Alice Springs.

All three projects are in the early stages of planning. This follows on from an initial round of SDA land grants awarded in 2020, which is delivering four houses in Darwin nearing completion.

¹ <https://ourfuture.nt.gov.au/accountability-and-reporting/program-progress>

Accessible Public Infrastructure

Embedding Universal Design

Work is continuing to embed universal design in all new public places and buildings. From 2022, all new NT Government Capital Work Plans require an access consultant and use of a Capital Works Design template. The template requires that the consultant provide advice and recommendations to achieve compliance with the National Construction Code, *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)* and the NT Disability Strategy.

This ensures appropriate investigation, identification of unique stakeholder or project specific accessibility requirements and inclusion of identified requirements within the design and documentation.

Inclusive Public Spaces

Bi-monthly meetings between the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and City of Darwin help to identify barriers to accessibility and gaps in design requirements, and investigate strategies to promote more inclusive public spaces. This has included improvements to consideration of the needs of people with mental health conditions or other disabilities episodic in nature when designing new spaces.

Supporting Service Providers

Closing the Gap

The NT Government has committed to meaningful engagement with the Aboriginal community controlled sector through Closing The Gap targets and the Northern Territory Aboriginal Affairs Strategy.

Additionally, the Disability Sector Strengthening Plan has been developed to support achievement of the CTG targets to build the community-controlled disability sector.

Engaging with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations

NT Government agencies are engaging in specific work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) relevant to their sector. NT Health regularly meets with ACCHOs, providing education, information and support as required by the community. Information and education is provided regarding referral pathways to community allied health services, NDIS and aged care.

Information and support is often also provided in relation to wrap around services or interfaces such as education, health and housing.

In-services and presentations are provided about specific aspects of aged and disability care such as Mealtime Safety.

ACCHOs are supported with diagnostic assessment and reports to facilitate lodgement of NDIS access requests as well as NDIS complaints pathways.

In addition, shared care planning is facilitated by both agencies for joint clients, particularly those with complex needs, including people with disability. Innovative approaches to shared care have included video facilitated assessment and a Memorandum of Understanding between ACCHOs is planned with the view to expand services to people with disability in the area.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Improving NDIS Access

Facilitated engagement in June 2023 with the NDIS Independent Review Panel in remote NT communities enabled specific recommendations for improvements to address service provision to remote and very remote participants. This year, the Department also commenced a pilot project to focus on improving the uptake of the NDIS approved supports in remote and very remote communities. Work commenced in Maningrida in March 2023, with a further visit in April 2023 with the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission.

Supporting Disability Service Providers

Work has commenced to support and strengthen disability service providers operating in the Northern Territory. In 2022 the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade developed a suite of online learning and information resources to guide new and existing Territory organisations in various aspects of NDIS service delivery. The content of these resources were then delivered through a series of tailored workshops across the Territory.

Small Business Champions engaged with over 118 businesses across the Territory, with 19 of these being referred to relevant services and supports to further improve their service delivery or were required, become an NDIS registered provider.



Feedback from workshop attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees scoring a **96%** approval rating.



“Great presentation. I have worked in the sector for many years and was a bit sceptical of training as most of the time it does not understand the contexts in which we live and work. Was nicely surprised that it was informative and helpful”.

- Workshop attendee

The Department of Industry Tourism and Trade provides support to Northern Territory businesses through the Small Business Champions (SBC) program. SBC supports businesses to build their capability and capacity and help them to access various types of support, services and programs through referrals to the relevant networking, contacts, information, tools and resources.

CASE STUDY

In August 2019, a registered NDIS provider, operating as a sole trader (support coordinator), met with SBC to request support. After the NDIS commenced full scheme operation in the Territory from 1 July 2019, the business began to grow and required support to change from a sole trader to a company before renewing their NDIS registration. The business expansion included building on the support coordinator role

to design, develop and present various programs to other service providers and participants to upskill and educate them on how to increase/improve NDIS participant capacity to build independence.

SBC provided a referral to the Commonwealth 'Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program'. This referral supported the business to apply for and receive a number of grants to further support their growth, transition

to full scheme NDIS service provision and their ongoing development and capability.

Over the last few years, the business has continued to grow and now employs over 20 staff, operating from two locations in Darwin. The business continues with an innovative approach to develop programs for market gaps that are not only direct support to participants but also to other providers which helps builds the sector.



Outcome 4: People with disability have the skills and opportunities to participate in the economy and be financially secure



30 Actions

1 Short-term | 3 Medium-term | 26 Ongoing

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Inclusive Learning

Framework for Inclusion

The Department of Education Framework for Inclusion 2019-2029 is being implemented in three phases and promotes schooling that is inclusive, fair and focused on delivering learning to meet individual needs. Ten projects related to priority actions within the Framework have been completed or are on track. These include initiatives such as:

- Building Collaborative Capacity - hubs of schools collaborating to explore and improve inclusive practices
- Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Service reform – improving the delivery of services to support schools
- Review of the funding model for students with disability.

Work is now entering a review period to measure impact and facilitate planning for the next phase.

Training Our Educators

Professional learning opportunities are facilitated through online and face-to-face training courses to support inclusive practice. Various topics are covered with Attachment and Trauma Theory being the most highly attended course in 2022-23, followed by Understanding and Supporting Behaviour.

Training and moderation sessions for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data of School Students with Disability (NCCD) were offered in both face to face and online format for remote networks of schools.

Disability Standards Training

Charles Darwin University educators are required to undertake Disability Standards and Awareness Training. The training program, developed during the reporting period, has already been attended by 797 staff (46% of the faculty). Educators are required to attend subsequent refresher training sessions every two years.



797 staff attended the training program (46% of the faculty)

Supporting School Leavers

Improving Transitional Support

Strategies to improve transitions to employment for students with disability have included:

- new grant funding to eight remote schools to support actions identified through transition planning
- increased supported work experience placements providing work-ready and independence skills and capacity in the workplace.

16 students participated in a partnership with YouthWorX and are completing a Certificate level qualification as well as having a supported pathway to employment.



Supported work experience

25 Darwin

13 Alice Springs

10 waitlist

103 students have Individual Transition Plans

Work Experience Opportunities

A Work Experience Working Group at Roper Gulf Regional Council is leading planning and development of a new initiative to facilitate work experience opportunities for special needs students enrolled at local schools.

Roper Gulf Regional Council is prioritising training for local community-based staff, including people with disability.

The Council is working to develop strategies to address identified barriers and align training with required skill sets or identified needs, and developing mentoring and on-the-job training programs.

Public Service Traineeships and Graduate Program

The Office of the Commissioner of Public Employment has conducted presentations to schools and Charles Darwin University to promote Public Service Traineeships and the Graduate program.

In response, there has been an increase in applications from people with disability across this program with four successful applicants in 2022-23.

Opportunities for Employment

Employability Strategy

All Northern Territory Government departments have a Disability Action Plan outlining their commitments under the NT Public Sector EmployAbility Strategy 2018-2022.

The Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment is currently evaluating the EmployAbility Strategy 2018-2022 and has commenced development of a subsequent strategy in consultation with NT Government agencies.

The EmployAbility Strategy aims to improve the participation of people with disability in the NT Public Sector and supports departments to assist people with disability to fulfil their potential in the workforce.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Disability Confident Employers

Inclusive Training

Disability Confident Workforces and Disability Confident Managers eLearning courses are available to assist NT Public Sector employees understand the benefits of inclusion of people with disability.

These courses assist managers in feeling more confident in discussing disability and knowing how to contribute to an inclusive and barrier-free workplace. Each course is made up of three separate modules, designed and created with accessibility in mind.

Annual Awards and Recognition

National Disability Services Northern Territory facilitate the NT Disability Inclusion Awards each year. In 2023, the award ceremony was renamed and five award categories updated to better align with the NT Disability Strategy.

Held at Parliament House in November 2022, the event highlighted the achievements of the 37 nominated individuals and organisations and their commitment to improving the lives of people with disability across the Territory.

Held at the Mindil Beach Casino Resort, the 2023 NT Young Achiever Awards recognised those young Territorians who have contributed positively to their communities. The NT Government is proud to sponsor several award categories including the Young Carers Award, specifically recognising young people who take on carer roles, giving their time to make life better for a person with disability or aged.



CASE STUDY

YouthWorX Career Launchpad Program

Kynan joined the Career Launchpad program in 2022, looking to find purpose and overcome some challenges at school. Initially quite reserved, he slowly worked to achieve his goals and became a confident leader within the group. He was enthusiastic and really looked forward to going to YouthWorX NT, socialising with his friends and helping many other participants with their goals. He enjoyed trying the new experiences available to him through the program including volunteering at Foodbank, Crocodylus Park and Couch Surfing.

Kynan started to think about a career in Information Technology and with lots of personal experience, secured work experience at Portal Technology, followed by a placement at New Future IT. With a proven commitment to learn, Kynan was offered a traineeship, full-time employment and Certificate III in Information Technology which he continues to enjoy today.

Providing a further confidence boost, Kynan was invited to participate as a guest speaker to give his perspective of starting out in the workforce and to visit the National Youth Employment Body in Melbourne representing the Territory's youth.



Outcome 5: People with disability's health and wellbeing is supported



13 Actions All Ongoing

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Ensuring Early Intervention

Access to Child Development Services

NT Health Child Development Teams (CDT) across the Territory triage all new referrals and allocate children to different therapeutic streams to match need.

A new pathway has been developed for high risk referrals which are now tracked and contacted immediately for further information. Referrals are then allocated for assessment and/or referred to other appropriate mainstream services.

Early Support appointments assist access to NDIS and necessary supports as early as possible.

CDT use Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) to screen child development. Drop-in clinics, requiring no referral, have been implemented across the Territory along with joint clinics with hospital paediatricians to provide multidisciplinary assessments as required.



49% of eligible children in the last 12 months have been screened using ASQ.

NT Health is regularly in contact with Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisation to streamline referrals and reduce duplication. In Central Australia, NT Health has recently employed additional staff to assess children for eligibility for NDIS and to assist access to necessary supports as early as possible.

Speech pathology and physiotherapy drop-in clinics are offered to allow families access to early support and education while they are on a waiting list for full service.

Healthy Under 5s

The Healthy Under 5 Kids Partnering with Families (HU5K-PF) Program offers child developmental screening for children up to five years attending a NT Health Primary Health Care Centre.

The program ensures children have access to consistent care across geographical locations. Using key developmental milestones, children are referred to a Medical Practitioner or other relevant accessible health services as appropriate.



59% of eligible children in NT Health clinics had a HU5K-PF assessment

271 referrals

Newborn Hearing Screening

The Newborn Hearing Screening Program aims to identify hearing loss in neonates shortly after birth, with screening offered to all babies born in birthing hospitals within the Northern Territory. Consequently this facilitates timely access to early intervention, including hearing rehabilitation and medical investigation.



92.12% of eligible children in NT Health Hospital had newborn hearing screening

Of **2983** children, **6** identified with permanent hearing impairment

Families as First Teachers

The Department of Education has implemented early childhood developmental screening in remote and very remote 'Families as First Teachers' sites. Thirty out of 34 sites are now using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Talking about Raising Aboriginal Kids (ASQ-TRAK) and facilitating referrals to relevant accessible health services when required.



88% of sites are currently implementing the ASQ-TRAK

314 children screened

23 referrals



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Focussing on Prevention

Maternal Health Programs

Through a network of trained professionals, including nurses, social workers, and early childhood specialists, the Maternity Early Childhood Home-visiting (MECSH) and the Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program (ANFPP) offer regular home visits to eligible families.

The MESCH program is a comprehensive and innovative initiative designed to provide support and guidance to expectant mothers and families in the first 3 years of life. It is established to promote healthy child development and positive parenting practices. The program aims to enhance the overall well-being of both children and their families. The program is being delivered in 4 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in 4 regions in the Territory.

The ANFPP is an evidence-based initiative designed to support vulnerable and disadvantaged first-time mothers and their children from early pregnancy until the child's second birthday.

Nurses offer comprehensive assessments, personalised health education, and practical guidance on various aspects of maternal and child health, parenting, and child development. These programs emphasise maternal and child well-being, promoting positive behaviours, and helping mothers build healthy, nurturing relationships with their children.



200 women completing the program across NT

149 Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home visiting program

51 Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program

Working Together

Electronic Patient Records

NT Health has developed a new secure electronic patient record system to meet the unique requirements of healthcare in the Territory. The system has already begun rolling out in phases and will support more accurate data collection to enable better needs based planning and service development as well as improved continuity of care.

HIGHLIGHT

Family as First Teachers (FaFT) aims to improve the lifelong education, health and wellbeing outcomes for young Northern Territory children and their families.

The FaFT program considers Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Talking about Raising Aboriginal Kids (ASQ-TRAK) screening as an important developmental tool that will help families to get

any support they might need as early as possible, and suited to an Indigenous context, particularly our remote Indigenous contexts.

ASQ-TRAK are delivered at milestone ages of 2, 6, 12 and 18 months and 2, 3 and 4 years as a way of empowering parents to understand and support their own child's development and to recognise their importance as their child's first teachers.



Accountability mechanisms



7 Actions

2 Short-term | 2 Medium-term | 1 Long-term | 2 Ongoing

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Establishing Processes

Ongoing Governance

The Northern Territory Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) supports governance and accountability for progress against the NT Disability Strategy and Action Plan. Facilitated by the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities and National Disability Services NT with a supporting agenda paper, the DAC is provided with an update on progress and gives feedback or suggestions regarding any areas of concern raised by NT Government agencies. The DAC will be involved in the review of the current Action Plan and development of the second plan as part of stakeholder engagement and governance.

Established in 2019, the DAC provides advice to the Northern Territory Minister for Disabilities on issues of importance to people with disability in the Territory.

Reporting Responsibilities

Embedding Actions

All NT Government agencies have committed to update their agency and business plans to be more inclusive of people with disability. Some agencies have updated master templates to include the NT Disability Strategy and Action Plan so that all new or revised business plans will include related actions.

Quarterly Progress Meetings

NT Government agencies meet quarterly to track progress against actions and commitments made in the Action Plan. Meetings were held in November 2022, February 2023 and May 2023. Meetings provide each agency with a platform to discuss and workshop collaboration opportunities or solutions.

Register of Commitments

The NT Disability Strategy webpage has been updated to include information for local government and non-government stakeholders to make a formal commitment under the Action Plan using the Register of Commitments.

Acting like an extension of the Action Plan, the register captures actions, timeframes, responsibilities and agreed performance measures for each commitment.

Functionality continues to be improved and promotion of the register is ongoing to increase interest and support for people with disability in the Territory. While the Register is still in its early stages, there have been some exciting initiatives and commitments made across the Territory including:

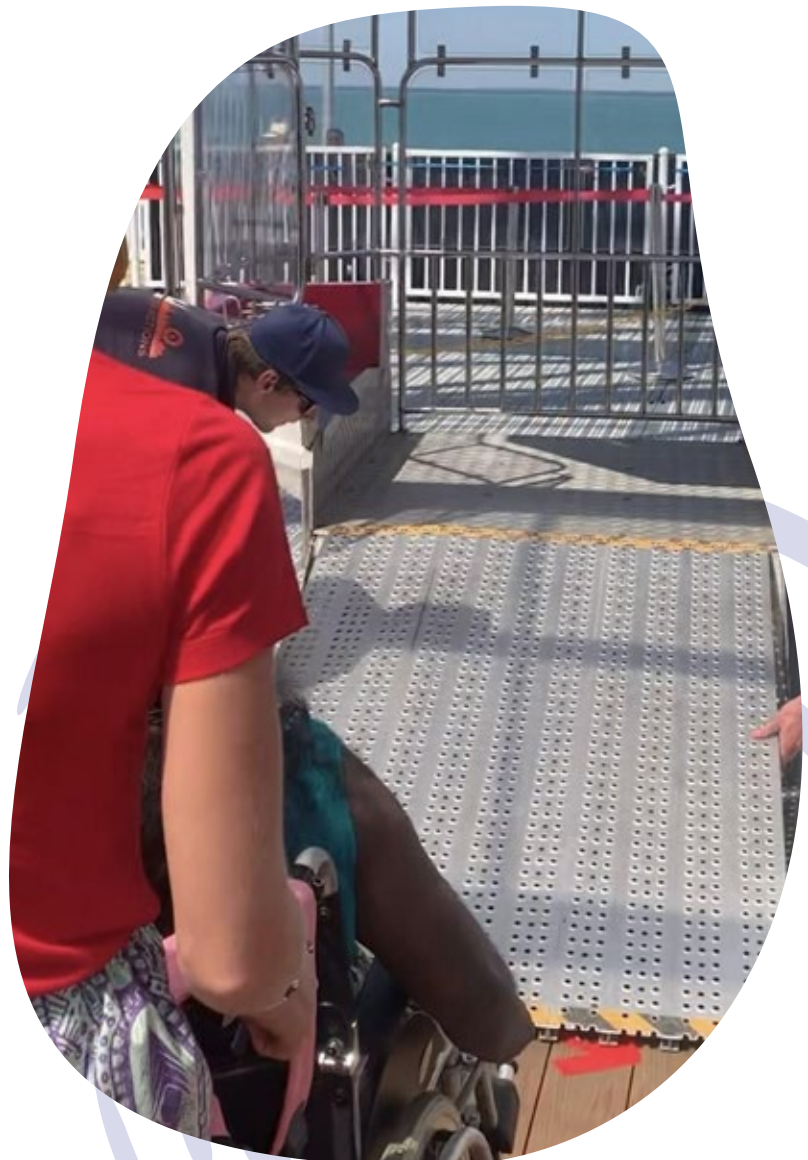
- Alice Springs Town Council, in partnership with Get Skilled Access, has created a role within Council for a person with lived experience of disability to facilitate increased disability access and inclusion across local sporting clubs and schools. The Council is also continuing to celebrate the achievements of people with disability and those who support them through Councils' annual Mayoral Awards.
- Darwin Waterfront Corporation is leading the way with various initiatives already in place including a priority seating area that is step free at the Wave Lagoon and a roll out Mobi-Mat to assist with sand and water access at the Beach. More recently, the Ferris Wheel attraction was reinstalled this year with a wheelchair accessible gondola.

Planned for completion in late 2023 is the Changing Places facility to be built at the Waterfront Precinct. Changing Places provide suitable facilities for people who are not accommodated by standard accessible toilets.

Measuring Success

Outcomes Framework

The Department is working collaboratively to develop an Outcomes Framework for the 10 year strategy. This Framework will identify key indicators that will be used to gauge success of the Strategy as a whole.



Where to now?

Community Updates

The Strategy and Action Plan were developed after extensive consultation from online and face to face submissions, working groups and people with lived experience of disability. Your ongoing involvement is valued and we want to keep you informed.

More highlights, as milestones are met and new initiatives are rolled out, will be shared by the Office of Disability. Register your interest to receive updates by email or keep an eye out online at the NT Disability Strategy website.

Register Your Commitment

Non-government and local government organisations are encouraged to register your commitments and actions that align with the Strategy.

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities Office of Disability will follow up with all organisations to confirm registration and reporting requirements.

Sustainable change across the Territory can only be achieved if we work together to increase inclusion as a community.

This report will be published on the NT Disability Strategy website

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TERRITORY FAMILIES,
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