



Easy Read

Northern Territory

Disability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24

A report on Year 2 of the 10-year Disability Strategy.

How to use this report



The Northern Territory Government wrote this report.

We call it the NTG for short.

When you see the word 'we' it means the Northern Territory Government.



This is an Easy Read summary of the Disability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24.

This means it has the most important ideas.

We will call it 'this report'.

You can find the other document on our [website](#).

Bold
Not bold

Hard words are written in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what the hard words mean.



You can ask for help to read this report.

You could ask a friend, family member or support person.



We recognise the Traditional Owners of our land, the Northern Territory.



They were the first people to live on and use the land and waters.



This report includes photos of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It may include images of people who have passed away.

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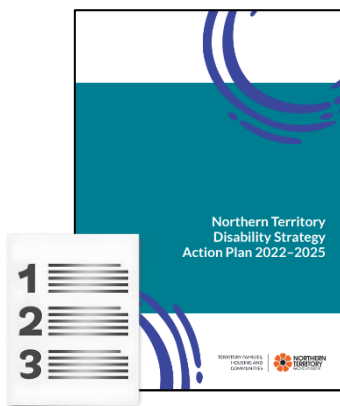
NT Disability Strategy Action Plan



In 2021, we wrote the **NT Disability Strategy**.

In this report we call it the Strategy.

The Strategy is a plan with ideas to makes the lives of people with disability better.



We also wrote an **Action Plan** for the Strategy.

The Action Plan is a list of all the things we will do.



When we wrote this report, we had help from the **Disability Advisory Committee**.

We call them the Committee.

The Committee are a group of people who have experience of disability in the Northern Territory.

They make sure that we:



- Hear the voice of people with disability.
- Include issues that are important in the Strategy.



We have done most of the things in the Action Plan.

Rights and Choice



There are 29 Actions in this section.

We have done 25 of these actions.



These Actions help us respect and protect the **rights** of people with disability.

Rights mean everyone is treated fair and equally.

We did this by:



- Training businesses to understand how to respect the rights and choices of people with disability.
- Training staff in the NTG to be kinder and more respectful to people with disability.

In the trainings we shared stories.



We shared a story of how we helped a prisoner with disability to visit his family and connect with his **culture**.

Culture is people's shared **customs**, beliefs and traditions.



Customs are a traditional way of doing things that are special and important to that community.



He told us he was very happy that he could visit family, home and country.



We shared a story of how Northern Territory police are getting training in **trauma and cultural care**.



Trauma and cultural care means understanding each person's experiences and respecting their beliefs and customs.



The police said this helped them to work better with people with disability.

Inclusive Communities



There are 24 Actions in this section.

We have done 21 of these actions.



These Actions help people with disability to be part of their community life.

We did this by:



- Helping more than 1100 people to get a **Companion Card**.

A Companion Card means a support worker or carer can go to events with a person with disability for free.



This has helped people to enjoy activities in the community.



- Meeting with organisations to help plan for inclusive events in the community.



- Providing support to sports and arts activities to help make them more **inclusive** and **accessible**.

Inclusive means everyone can take part.

Accessible means it is easy to find, use and understand.



- Giving money to Arts organisations to help people with disability to join in art and cultural events.



- Sharing a story about Adrian.

He is an artist from Central Australia.



He went overseas to show his paintings to the world.



People told Adrian that they loved his paintings very much.



His story shows us how disability does not stop you from doing what you love.



- Sharing a story of a young woman named Briseis from Ramingining.



She has a dream to run in the 2028 Paralympic Games.

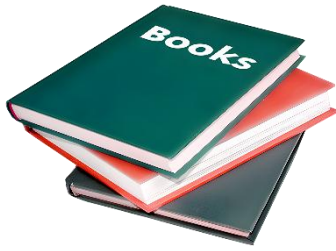
She wants to be like the famous runner Cathy Freeman.



Briseis won 6 medals at the NT and Australian All Schools Championships.



The NTG helped Briseis and other athletes with disability in the Northern Territory to follow their dreams.



- Alice Springs Town Council helps **volunteers** with disability work in the library.



Volunteers are people who offer to work for free so that they can learn new skills or share their skills with others.



Ben and Jim have been volunteering at the library for a few years and are important members of the team.

Working in the library can help people to be confident and learn new things.



For example, Jim learnt many new things and now he works at Imparja Television.

Easy access to information and services



There are 22 Actions in in this section.

We have done 22 of these actions.



These Actions help make it easier for people with disability to access services, like transport.



We want people with disability to be able to find and use what they need in the community, for example:

- Services.
- Shops.
- Support.

We did this by:



- We got more wheelchair taxis in the Northern Territory to safely transport more people with disability.



Taxi drivers did training on helping people with wheelchairs in taxis.



They now have to complete a checklist every time they have a person with a wheelchair in their taxi.



- We opened the first NT **Changing Places** toilet at Darwin Waterfront.

Changing Places toilets are for people with disability who need more support and space than an accessible toilet.



We will build 2 more Changing Places toilets in 2025.

- 1 in Katherine.
- 1 in Darwin.



- Working to help people in remote areas have more transport choices when they need to visit big town centres.

The NTG want to make public transport more accessible so that people with disability can travel more easily.



- Darwin Airport made changes so that:
 - Going to the airport is accessible.
 - There are more accessible toilets.
 - Their staff know about the **Sunflower Initiative** so they can better help people with a hidden disability.

The Sunflower Initiative is a way to share information about your disability when:

- You have a hidden disability or a sensory disability.
- You need a little extra time to understand.
- You need a helping hand.



- We made sure training is available to Aboriginal people in community to help them give **culturally appropriate care** to people with disability.



Culturally appropriate care means that everyone's background, customs and beliefs are **valued and respected**.

Valued and respected means that your feelings and emotions are important.



Jennifer did this training and can now look after people in her community so they don't have to travel to a big city to get treatment.

She says she values and respects the people she cares for in the community.

This is important to her and people in her community.

Access to work and to earn money



There are 30 Actions in this section.

We have done 27 of these actions.

These Actions support people with disability to:



- Go to school.
- Get training.
- Have a job.

We did this by:



- In 2024:
 - 100 students with disability finished school and went for more education or training.





- 15 students were supported in work experience.

- 41 students completed their qualifications.



- 20 Schools introduced the **Be You** program.

Be You is a national program we have in schools to build inclusion and **mental health wellbeing**.

Mental health wellbeing helps you to manage everyday stress and difficult emotions to help you be happier and healthier.



- Ronish shared a story of how she went to a program to support her work in Bushfires NT.

She is completing **Certificate III in Business**.



The **Certificate III in Business** is a course that teaches people the skills to work in an office.

Ronish told us:

- Her skills have improved.
- She has more confidence to be a good worker.

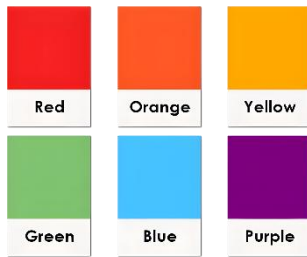


Bushfires NT enjoy working with Ronish too.



- Jessica is working at McDonalds in Palmerston and loves being helpful to her work mates.

Jessica is deaf and McDonalds helped to make a silent kitchen.



They use different coloured trays to tell Jess what items are needed.

This means they do not need to rely on talking.



Jessica is teaching her work mates Auslan sign language to help make communication easier.

Health and Wellbeing



There are 13 Actions in this section.

We have done 11 of these actions.



These Actions help to make access to health and wellbeing services easier.

We did this by:

- Making it easier for people in remote areas to use health and wellbeing services.

We shared that we have:



- Visited 7200 children under the age of 5 to make sure they are healthy.



- Gave 2888 newborn babies hearing tests.



- Visited more than 7600 homes to support young families.



- Sharing a story of how NTG Health workers are travelling to remote communities to check on babies and young children.



Health workers do lots of tests and can make sure people get the help they need.

They work with family members to make sure everyone is healthy and safe.



- Sharing a story of how the NDIS is working with the remote community of Maningrida by being **culturally appropriate** and supporting the local workforce.



Culturally appropriate means working with people in a way that is respectful of their beliefs.



We want to work with more communities to make sure the NDIS works better for people with disability that live there.



We always want people with disability to make decisions about things that affect their lives.

Accountability mechanisms



Accountability mechanisms are the things we do to make sure we are doing what we said we would in the Action Plan.

We did this by:



- Having 4 meetings to make sure everyone in the NTG was working on our Actions.



- Asking the Disability Advisory Committee for help and advice on how we can do things better.



- Saying that we would make this report to share our good stories with everyone.



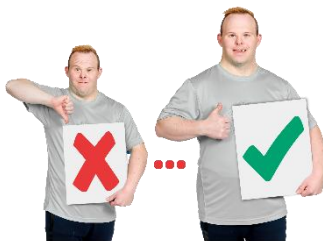
- Reviewing the Action Plan and will make a new 1 so that we can keep helping people with disability.



- Looking at the changes being made across Australia because of the Disability Royal Commission.

We will call this the **DRC**.

The DRC:



- Is an official way of looking into a big problem.
- Helps us to work out what went wrong.
- Tells is what we need to improve.



The DRC spoke to people with disability from across Australia so they could find out how they can do better and help you have a better life.



They made 222 **recommendations**.

Recommendations are the things the DRC think should happen.



The recommendations from the DRC are being included in the new Action Plan for the NTG.



This new Action Plan will start in 2025.

This document has been made in an easy-to-read way with support from the South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability and Inclusion Northern Territory using images from Microsoft 365 and Photosymbols. Images cannot be used without permission. This document was tested by people with intellectual disability.

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More information



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Find more information about the Disability Royal Commission on their web page

www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au