



Ordinary People
Ordinary Lives

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E-Bulletin 73 February 2013

[NSW Disability Services Act review](#)

[Find out how you can contribute](#)

Background: The current law in NSW

The *Disability Services Act 1993* is the main legal foundation in NSW for providing supports and services to people with disability. When it was made, the Act set out a progressive, rights-based approach to supporting people with disability.

The need for change

In the almost 20 years since the *Disability Services Act 1993* was made, there have been significant changes in attitudes towards people with disability and the ways that they are supported. Most important of these are:

- respecting the independence of people with disability;
- recognising the right of people with disability to be in control of their lives and to make or be involved in decisions that affect them; and
- ensuring people with disability can participate fully in Australian society.

Under the ten year plan for disability services, *Stronger Together 2*, the NSW Government is committed to a person centred disability system, one that meets the individual needs and goals of people with disability and supports them to realise their potential. To build a framework that reflects these ways of supporting people with disability and respects their rights, new disability laws will be developed to:

1. facilitate the NSW Government's person centred disability support reforms;
2. create an integrated disability legal framework, which draws together different laws that affect people with disability into one set of laws; and
3. reflect current thinking about rights for people with disability.

Links to the National Disability Insurance Scheme

On 6 December 2012 the NSW and Australian Governments reached agreement that fully establishes the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) across NSW from July 2018. The agreement ensures that all people with disability across NSW will have access to a scheme, based on insurance principles, that guarantees lifetime coverage for the cost of reasonable and necessary care and support.

Work towards the NDIS sits alongside *Stronger Together 2*. The implementation of *Stronger Together 2*, and the associated review of disability laws, will ensure NSW models key elements of individual choice and control and reform which underpin the NDIS.

[How can you contribute?](#)

To inform the development of new disability legislation, many people will have ideas to share. They include, but are not limited to:

- people with disability, their families and carers
- service providers
- advocates
- peak disability and representative organisations
- government departments, local government and community agencies.

The NSW Government is interested in hearing from as many people and groups as possible and welcome all contributions. There are several ways you can contribute, through either a face to face consultation session or written feedback.

Consultation sessions have been arranged for both regional and metropolitan areas. Each session will run for 2.5 hours and include up to 40 participants:

For details on the Consultation Sessions, [please click here](#).

Or, you can click on the links below:

http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/legislation_agreements_partnerships/nsw_disability_services_act_review

[Consultation sessions](#)

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