

# Disability inclusion in NSW: a blueprint



Delivering disability inclusion in NSW will take political will and action.

Our political parties have an opportunity - and a responsibility - to make it a genuine priority.

Almost one in five people in NSW have a disability. Systemic change across a broad number of policy areas will ensure people with disability are able to live their lives the way they want to. We need to break down the barriers, both big and small, that people with disability face every single day. These barriers make simple things that should be achievable, such as getting on public transport to securing a decent job, impossible.

Taking action on disability inclusion isn't just the right thing to do, it's a basic and fundamental obligation under international and Australian law.

This blueprint, developed by disability advocacy, information and representation organisations from across NSW, outlines just some of the key areas a coordinated all-of-government response to disability inclusion should include. Everything

included in this blueprint is achievable and will make a measurable difference to the lives of all NSW residents with disability.

People with disability want to be able to do everyday things. Right now, that can be impossible for many people with disability. This blueprint provides just a small snapshot of some of the immediate things a newly elected government can and should do to help change that.

# Putting disability inclusion front and centre

The first term of a newly elected NSW Government needs to show that disability inclusion is a top priority. Specifically, we should see leadership and coordination of disability inclusion in a single, powerful coordinating entity – ideally within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

With 1.4 million people in NSW living with disability, disability inclusion is an issue that touches every aspect of government policy. Centralising responsibility would be a sensible first step towards ensuring the needs of people with disability are considered every step of the way.



## Education

Every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. If we are serious about ensuring children with disability are able to live up to their full potential, we need policies in place that allow them to thrive.

### This includes:

- A commitment to the ten-year road map to progressively realise inclusive education in NSW.
- Practical measures like increasing the number of teachers with disability in the education system.
- Ensuring every student has access to the support, services and products they need to learn and achieve.
- Investment in a work transition pilot, so that students have a clear and viable pathway from education to employment.



## Employment

Ensuring we have policies in place that results in greater levels of quality employment for people with disability is crucial in shifting the dial on the inclusion of people with disability in the state.

### This includes:

- Transparency in public sector employment - we need to have a greater breakdown of public sector employment data to identify where targeted focus is needed.
- A commitment to reaching, and exceeding, the current target of 5.6 per cent employment of people with disability in the public sector. This needs to include equity across people with different kinds of disability and incorporate initiatives to enable recruitment and retention.
- Ensuring workers have access to the support, products and services they need to do their job.



## Housing

Everyone deserves a safe and comfortable house to live in. Current NSW strategies to address the housing needs of people with disability are failing to meet demand and are not fit for purpose. We need a government that will take decisive action to ensure that the right homes are built to meet the needs of everyone, including people with disability, both now and into the future.

### This includes:

- Signing NSW up to the National Construction Code minimum accessibility changes by October 2023
- A commitment to building 5,000 new accessible social housing properties each year for the next 10 years



## Transport

Ensuring transport is accessible to everyone in the state should be a key priority of any government.

### This includes:

- The introduction of transport timetables and information that are in both print and digital formats and are presented in ways which are accessible for people with intellectual disability.
- Train transport staff in disability awareness. This should be the same across all providers.
- Improving access to wheelchair accessible taxis, particularly in the regions
- Delivering on government commitments to make all train stations accessible



## Accessible communications

Everyone should be able to use government websites to get information relevant to their lives.

### This includes:

- Websites which are easy to navigate and easy-to-use, with key documents provided in Easy Read.
- Information on government services is accessible for everyone – in digital form on the website; on the phone and being able to talk to staff face to face.