



afi advocacy
for inclusion



People with
Disabilities
ACT Inc

FEDERAL ELECTION

POLICY PLATFORM

2025

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Federal Election Policy Platform

Contents

Introduction..... 3

Tackling Discrimination through law reform..... 5

Meet the challenge of the Disability Royal Commission 6

Tackle rising disinformation and hate speech 7

Sustain and fix the NDIS 9

Beyond NDIS - build the foundations we need 10

Drive down poverty..... 12

Get real on jobs..... 14

Coordinated action on health, housing and education 16

End the violence 19

Introduction

Advocacy for Inclusion are proud to introduce our 2025 Federal Election Policy Platform.

This platform contains nine priorities for the coming Federal Election focused on practical investments to improve essential mainstream services and poverty plus responses to the Disability Royal Commission, the NDIS and Foundational Supports, law reform and tackling emerging priorities like growing misinformation.

Federal elections are highly consequential for ACT people with disability due to the Federal Government's responsibilities for the NDIS, for income support, and disability employment. Over recent years, the disability policy space has been characterised by major reforms, landmark reports and reviews, and near constant upheaval.

More than 1 in 5 Australians experience disability. Nearly one third of the Australian population has at least one long-term health condition. The proportion of Australians experiencing disability has increased and will continue to rise in the future. This increasing number of people need health system access, rehabilitation, inclusive education, barrier free environments, decent income support and good services as well as protections from further disease and illness to stay well.

The Royal Commission provided us with ample evidence about the need for disability reform while the NDIS Review highlighted the need for whole of government action. Key metrics point to disadvantage. Fewer people with disability are in work, volunteering and community settings and there is an overrepresentation of people with disability in situations of homelessness, labour market exclusion and violence. The community is littered with obstacles and barriers to participation and low incomes keep people mired in poverty.

A bold generous investment effort by Australians in the NDIS has seen improvements in the circumstances of people with disability requiring specialist services but it's also exposed the need to modernise discrimination law and direct more money and effort into employment, housing, health, justice, education and municipal services to ensure that specialist services do not stand as an oasis.

The coming Federal Election presents a timely opportunity to amplify issues that matter to people with disability. Through this platform, we seek to educate and inform local candidates on key issues and offer clear pathways for real change. Over recent years, AFI has conducted a range of policy work including the NDIS Review, Disability Royal Commission, our White Paper Series on Income Support, Housing, Inclusive Education, and COVID-19, as well as submissions made in federal spaces. This platform reflects the accumulation of these efforts as well as themes from our individual advocacy.

Disability cannot be siloed or understood in terms of jurisdictional boundaries. Improved experiences and outcomes for people with disability can only be realised through coordinated strategies backed by real investment. The ACT, through its development of the Disability Health Strategy, Disability Justice Strategy, and more recently, the Disability Inclusion Bill, has laid some real foundations for change.

On the other hand, the ACT's closeness to the seat of Parliament can also mask social issues in the Territory: high costs of living, missing service types, a lack of Federal funding in some key areas, runaway housing costs, gaps in health services and a range of issues consequential to rapid growth and ageing. A thin revenue base leaves the Territories ambitions for people with disability highly dependent on the Commonwealth.

While recognising and amplifying, where appropriate, the work and strategic platforms put forward by national peak bodies and disability organisations ahead of the election, Advocacy for Inclusion seeks to ensure that local candidates focus on local needs and attend to priorities identified by our community. We also invite candidates to attend to other platforms across the disability community which mirror many of these issues, such as the [priorities released by People with Disability Australia](#).

With this platform, we call on candidates to listen to, endorse, and reflect on these key issues ahead of the election on 3 May 2025 and carry them into the next Parliament if elected.

About us

Advocacy for Inclusion (AFI) is an independent organisation delivering reputable national systemic advocacy informed by our experience in individual advocacy and community and government consultation. We provide dedicated individual and self-advocacy services, training, information and resources in the ACT. As a Disabled People's Organisation, the majority of our organisation, including our Board of Management, staff and members, are people with disabilities. AFI speaks with the authority of lived experience. It is strongly committed to advancing opportunities for the insights, experiences and opinions of people with disabilities to be heard and acknowledged.

Tackling Discrimination through law reform

What is the problem?

Australia's Federal Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) is broken and after thirty years has been unsuccessful in achieving transformative accessibility to spaces, places, goods and services for people with disability in Australia.

What is the evidence?

The DDA has not been achieved its key objectives – ending employment discrimination, transforming places and spaces, ending discrimination in housing, improving education attainment, or addressing critical transport problems like inaccessible air travel. The Report of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability noted many failings and recommended that the Act be modernised.

Over time the power of the Legislation within the Australian Human Rights Commission has eroded to the point where it is wholly reliant on its mediation function. The Act creates a set of penalties which can no longer be enforced without litigants risking adverse outcomes and financial ruin in a court matter following the King vs Jetstar case.

The complaints-based nature of the legislation was always problematic. For the DDA to work, Australians with disabilities would need to be prepared to be mired in endless litigation with employers, airlines, shops, restaurants, schools and civic buildings.

Defendants usually have a generous armoury of defences - notably that accommodations will result in unjustifiable hardship. This is a nebulous, moveable concept that was arguably even further weighted against complainants as a result of the Jetstar decision.

DDA mechanisms are half-hearted. The Commonwealth Disability Strategy was meant to deliver action plans across Commonwealth agencies which never happened. Proof can be seen in steady decline of employment of people with disability in the Australian Public Service (APS).

The DDA Standards Process, created as an engine for change, is slow and unambitious. For instance, its transport standards exempt school buses and have timelines which step all the way out to 2032. Incorporating Access Standards into the Building Code took over a decade.

What do we want the next Government to do?

- That the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 be amended to provide the Federal Disability Discrimination Commissioner with own motion and enforcement powers. It should mandate an active duty to avoid discrimination starting with the Commonwealth and large companies and then unfolding across community.
- That a National Disability Discrimination Commission be created to exercise, quality assure and enforce these powers to ensure consistent and high levels of accessibility to places, spaces, goods and services – it should have similar enforcement and quality assurance power to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.
- That a National Disability Inclusion Act be introduced requiring all Commonwealth Agencies to publish and operate Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPS) for approval by the Commission and allowing the Commonwealth to preference private business and non-government providers who have approved Plans. Further that work to align State, Territory and Local Government approaches to DAIPS be undertaken through the National Cabinet

Meet the challenge of the Disability Royal Commission

What is the problem?

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse and Neglect was the biggest inquiry of its kind in Australian history costing almost \$600 million, as well as vast amounts of time and personal trauma. It exposed systemic and horrifying abuse, violence and systemic failures of policy and investment at every level of government, in the private and NGO sector and across the community.

What is the evidence?

Only 13 recommendations out of 222 were fully accepted, with many remaining unresolved despite the key recommendations having strong support from people with disability and organisations. Many of the most crucial recommendations have been set aside or noted – these include proposals for a Disability Rights Act, a new cross cutting National Disability Agreement, a Minister for Disability, removing sub award wages, moving away from segregated schools and housing plus a national approach to ending non- therapeutic sterilisation.

What do we want the next Government to do?

- An incoming government should revisit the report and recommendations of the Commission and accept the majority of recommendations where there is disability community support. They should focus on structural reform and changes to key government service areas
- Accept the key structural recommendations to drive change including a national disability agreement especially the inclusion of dedicated requirements, funding and reporting within all bilateral agreements especially those concerned with housing, education, closing the gap, health, infrastructure and municipal services.
- Work with national cabinet to commit to timeframe for removing sub award wages, moving away from segregated schools and housing
- Implement a national approach to ending non- therapeutic sterilisation
- Increase funding under the National Disability Advocacy Funding program and to State and Territory disability consumer peaks
- Prioritise responses to recommendations in key service areas including through tied national funding agreements in health, education and housing (see our platform on this).

Tackle rising disinformation and hate speech

What is the problem?

Hate speech, disinformation and misinformation about disability is rapidly escalating all around the world, resulting in damage to programs and policies which encourage disability employment and exposing people with disability to an increasing risk of harassment, vilification, bullying and violence.

What is the evidence?

Factually incorrect information about Diversity Equity and Inclusion concepts and programs has spread from the United States disinformation ecosphere into Australian political conversations. Slurs against people with intellectual and cognitive disability have heightened on social media platforms including the use of the 'R' word by the owner of the 'X' platform and its reemergence in political discourse.

There has been a very rapid escalation in tone, volume and intensity of hateful rhetoric against people with disabilities in the opening months of 2025.

Australia has been through a multiyear toxic debate about NDIS costs which has included people with disabilities being misrepresented as wasteful and criminal. The 5 year COVID pandemic has exposed and amplified harmful discussions about eugenics and the value and quality of life of people with disability

The removal of prohibitions against euthanasia at a Federal Level have also led to devaluing conversations about the value of disabled lives

There is evidence that hate speech in other domains leads to serious harmful real-life outcomes. Hate speech can lead to serious distress, feelings of humiliation and worthlessness and mental health deterioration that can impact on an individual's ability to participate in the workforce and in the community more broadly. Studies have also confirmed the multiple adverse impacts of hate speech and discrimination including the compounding of other forms of disadvantage such as social isolation or an increased risk of physical illness.

Unlike other communities under duress, for instance after the Voice referendum, the same sex marriage poll and incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia, these events have not prompted Governments and security agencies to stand up policy, program and security responses, messaging and practical assistance for people with disability.

What do we want the next Government to do?

- Host a national summit on hate speech, disinformation and misinformation against people with disabilities designed to surface its origins and extent, map its harm and impacts and develop strategies to combat it
- Withhold sponsored Australian Government content from 'X' until its owner stops using the R word as a slur against people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities

- Introduce a motion early in the life of the next Parliament inviting all MP's and Senators to affirm the value, life and dignity of disabled Australians and recommit to equal opportunity, diversity, equity and inclusion including in Australian Public Sector employment
- Provide enhanced funding to Federal, State and Territory DPO's to manage the impacts of hate speech and counter its prevalence, especially against people with intellectual and cognitive disability and people with autism.
- Fund national benchmarked community attitudes research to ensure community attitudes work is sound, evidence-based, and results can be measured

Sustain and fix the NDIS

What is the problem?

For Canberrans the NDIS is complex, experiences poor Local Area Coordination, inconsistent and flawed decision making, poor information about services and poor communication with the insurance agency. Continuous uncertainty about scheme continuity and funding causes fear and a rationed support mindset.

What is the evidence?

Our submission to the NDIS Review found the following pain points for Canberra NDIS recipients

- Inconsistent and Inadequate Funding or funding for the wrong things
- Lack of guidance and confusing language and issues with navigation
- The amount of reporting and documentation and document mishandling:
- Role confusion, inconsistency and quality in Local Area Coordination
- Wait times for approval and reviews
- Mistakes and mishandling of funding allocations, documents and other matters
- Unsatisfactory and limiting recommendations around equipment and home modifications
- Limited help finding good services including poor information and referral
- Excessive treatment and service costs charged by providers
- Excessive modification and equipment costs
- Limited services in the ACT
- Service delivery constraints i.e., wrong or limited services
- Thin markets and missing services in ACT and region
- Inadequate quality and training of support workers
- Reduced availability of non-NDIS services

More recently the NDIS reforms are resulting in some people losing plans and services or having restricted access to supports.

What do we want the next Government to do?

- Commit to a secure well-funded ongoing NDIS
- Commit to consumer centred NDIS reforms which go beyond demand management to improving the experience of people with disability.
- Remove the simplistic and restrictive list of NDIS supports
- Retender local area coordination
- Establish a focussed, resourced ACT whole of jurisdiction advisory mechanism
- Improve agency resources and put in place continuous improvement measures around a host of client service issues
- Fund advocacy to respond and support people with access problems
- Accelerate development of Foundational Supports and place a moratorium on the removal of NDIS supports until these are in place

Beyond NDIS - build the foundations we need

What is the problem?

Governments have agreed to build a new system of Foundational Supports to provide supports outside of the National Disability Insurance Scheme that were never covered by the NDIS. This system is taking too long to build, work is out of sync with the NDIS changes and there is a lack of resources for people with disability to engage and build new services together especially where it makes sense for them to be directly controlled by people with disability.

What is the evidence?

The 2023 NDIS Review report recommended the development of a system of foundational supports to be developed between the Australian Government and the states and delivered outside the NDIS.

It was recommended that the National Cabinet should agree to jointly design, fund and commission an expanded and coherent set of foundational disability supports outside individualised NDIS budgets. Further that the Department of Social Services, with state and territory governments, should develop and implement a Foundational Supports Strategy.

Areas highlighted within the review included information, navigation support, systemic advocacy and jointly investing in state and territory programs to provide additional support to people with disability outside the NDIS.

These included programs in the areas of home and community care support, a nationally consistent approach for the delivery of aids and equipment outside the NDIS, psychosocial supports outside the NDIS to assist people with severe and persistent mental ill-health currently unable to access supports and early supports for children with emerging development concerns and disability.

Agreement between the States, Territories and the commonwealth has not been fully secured nor has matched funding despite the new system being meant to cut in from July 2025.

The ACT has some key support gaps, a growing population and real poverty and disadvantage. Some of the services and support types available in NSW and other jurisdictions have never existed here while others are very thin.

The ACT also experiences very uneven local area coordination services and a history of poorly transplanted national services and models from over the border or from other jurisdictions. Occasionally assumptions are also made that national organisations can service the ACT as the capital city when in reality those organisations have little to no footprint here.

The consistent feedback across the NDIS review consultations here in the ACT, which include AFI's extensive [What we Heard Report](#) to government, points to the need for locally grown and controlled advocacy, referral and information services while there are known hazards in trying to transplant external providers without local knowledge, capacity, and accountability. The consultations also pointed to the disappointing outcomes from transplanted services and also highlight the importance of local consortia and alliances to facilitate connections within communities and referrals.

We are concerned that this approach, transplanted to Foundational Supports, will be counterproductive

What do we want the next Government to do?

- Match the ACT Governments provision of \$90 million for Foundational Supports
- Undertake and release needs analysis work on the extent of gaps and use this to underpin ongoing funding
- Include people with disability and our organisations in the governance model for the new system
- Fund ACT Disability Directed Organisations to scope, surface and build capacity to deliver the General Tier of Foundational Supports
- Take a long-term commissioning approach/not a project grant approach to information, self-advocacy and capacity building supports

Drive down poverty

What is the problem?

Commonwealth income support and the concessions system and efforts to support people with disability into jobs are not successfully preventing people with disability from falling into poverty and deprivation risking poor health, homelessness, transport disadvantage and cycles of abuse and neglect.

What is the evidence?

Poverty is a driver of abuse, neglect and violence against people with disabilities. It places people in situations of harm, reduces their capacity to remove themselves from these situations and leaves them open to exploitation. Food insecurity, housing stress, transport disadvantage and pressures from utilities and other bills combined with additional costs that come with having a disability represent a form of systemic abuse and neglect in a country that can afford to do better.

Many people with disability experience poor economic outcomes, financial hardship un(der)employment, and poverty. Recent research also finds that for people with disability, poverty is more likely to be a *persistent* rather than temporary. The nature and extent of poverty represents a systemic challenge, the drivers of which are complex, multifaceted, and interconnected. Across Australia, there are approximately 2.1 million people with disability of working age (between 15 and 64) whose employment situations have shown little improvement over the past decade.

More than half of people with disability rely on a government pension or allowance as their primary source of income. The Inquiry into the Purpose, Intent, and Adequacy of the Disability Support Pension (DSP) highlighted the close and reinforcing relationship between insufficient systems of income support and poverty amongst people with disability – all to no avail. With the maximum basic rate of DSP continuing to sit below the Henderson poverty line, people with disability are facing further material deprivation and uncertainty.

People with disability are more likely to have a lower standard of living, even when they earn the same. In addition to the rising costs of everyday essential goods and services, disability often incurs higher living expenses due to medication, treatment, and premiums placed on more specific items. These extra costs are typically unreported when it comes to understanding the financial pressures facing people with disability.

Economic analysis has identified the ‘less obvious higher costs’ experienced by people with disability which tend to go unreported because the costs are ‘ignored, internalised, or forgotten.’ Such costs include higher prices for similar goods due to inaccessible buildings, shops or transport, the inability to shop around for or take advantage of mark-downs or bargains, a greater reliance on more expensive, or more proximate, smaller convenience stores, and higher prices for non-basic models with added functionality.

People with disability also report greater use of heating and cooling and more expensive transport modalities. ‘Free’ or low-cost workarounds are often inaccessible or unavailable. These additional costs amount to a disability premium between 2 and 5 per cent above the

costs faced by people without disability. The bottom line is that life costs more for people with disability and their families, spending more on essential goods and services. These extra costs mean people with disability have less money in their pockets than people without disability, or are forced to go without.

What do we want the next Government to do?

- Introduce a Disability and Illness Supplement of at least \$50 a week (for single people) that recognises the additional costs people on Disability Support Pension face because of disability or illness. This supplement should be available to people with disability, as well as people with an illness that prevents them from undertaking full-time paid work
- Introduce a permanent and adequate increase to JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy, Abstudy, Special Benefit and Parenting Payment. JobSeeker and these other payments should increase to at least \$82 a day (the pension rate).
- Commonwealth Rent Assistance should also be more than doubled to reflect rents paid by people on low incomes.

Get real on jobs

What is the problem?

People with disability are less likely to enter the labour market find or retain paid employment and are often in casualised or underpaid employment. Federal Government policies and programs have failed over many decades to shift the dial and now there are indications that we are going backwards with a global pushback against diversity initiative that are meant to help.

What is the evidence?

People with disability, in general, have not benefitted from the positive employment trend in Australia over the last two decades. In the ACT, while there has been a slight increase in the percentage of people with disability (between 15 and 64) in the labour force since 2015, the figure lags well behind the percentage of people without reported disability. People with disability in the ACT are also more likely to be employed on a part-time basis.

People with disability are also overrepresented in the bottom two income quintiles in the ACT. In short, people with disability are needing to increase their disposable income by at least half to achieve the same standard of living as people without disability. Over the past five years, Canberra has experienced above-inflation increases in the prices of many essential goods and services. This additional financial strain is compounding the financial pressures people with disability face every day.

It is our experience that employment policy for people with disability has been constrained by its sole carriage by the Australian Government with limited and unclear roles for the States and Territories and municipal government. The States have some key levers including taxation and proximity to employment creation and relationships with State and Territory chambers and business and commerce. They are also heavily involved in procurement in industries which offer entry level jobs.

What do we want the next Government to do?

- Increase DSP and JobSeeker so that people are not in a poverty cycle with declining health and welfare
- Increase targets for employing people with disability in public service positions and tie these to performance agreements and initiate key signature measures such as Parliamentary internships to demonstrate Government commitment to a diversified workforce.
- Retain and defend Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in employment and mount a campaign to combat disinformation and misinformation about disability employment
- Retain and strengthen flexible working arrangements including work from home for Canberra workers and public servants where appropriate
- Mandatory reporting on the numbers of people with disability employed by private sector and not for profit organisations receiving Federal money in annual reports.
- The adoption of an accessible procurement policy by the Government to preference employers that demonstrate best practise in the employment of people with disability.

- Retention of the full DSP for at least six months for people with disability entering the workforce in entry level positions in order to provide real incentives and buffers against perverse outcomes due to extra costs as a person settles into paid work.
- Comprehensive tax offsets for the costs of mainstream supports people with disability may encounter in order to maintain themselves in jobs (for instance the costs of tailored clothing, taxis or maintaining a car).
- Transition from the Australia Disability Enterprises model to genuine work training and skills building opportunities that lead to open mainstream employment for people with disability in line with the disability Royal Commission recommendations.
- Untether some funding from Commonwealth employment providers and build a fit-for-purpose offer to Disabled People's Organisations and Disabled Representative Organisations to work in a systemic and evidence-based manner with State and Territory business chambers, large employers and local and State Governments to build pathways into work with local employers
- Give disability employment providers a broader pre-employment activation and readiness remit
- Fund Disabled People's Organisations to provide peer support, self-advocacy, and community development through Foundational Supports
- Make investments in the community and health sector's capacity to make accommodations, employ and retain people with disability
- Institute a National Disability Agreement and reform the Disability Discrimination Act including through providing an active duty to avoid discrimination so that the barriers to transport, spaces, information, the digital realm are progressively removed
- Retain and recommit to diversity, equity and inclusion measures for people with disability and fight disinformation and misinformation about the employment of people with disabilities
- Undertake community attitudes work focussed on employers and managers
- Support new approaches to recruitment which focus on inherent requirements rather than cookie cutter selection criteria

Coordinated action on health, housing and education

What is the problem?

People with disability experience poorer outcomes in key wellbeing areas due to insufficient and inaccessible core government interventions in health, housing and education.

What is the evidence?

Health

It is the right of people with disability to attain the highest standards of health, without discrimination on the basis of disability. People with disability have higher rates of use of health services including General Practitioners, medical specialists, and hospital emergency departments and services. People with disability are also more likely to face barriers to accessing health services. The lack of equitable and timely access to appropriate healthcare, especially preventative and proactive management of health risks and chronic conditions, has been identified as a factor contributing to poor health outcomes for people with disability.

The dominance of the medical model of disability is likely contributing to poorer health outcomes and health inequities for people with disability. Diagnostic overshadowing is also a problem. This is when a medical practitioner assumes that a patient's complaint is related to their disability. This is a significant risk when medical practitioners do not have specific disability knowledge and training. It can lead to symptom dismissals, underdiagnoses, and misdiagnoses. Disability related health disparities are caused in large part by avoidable disadvantage, and not primarily by underlying impairment. This is a complex and emerging concern that requires work to develop training.

COVID has exposed gaps in the health system and we need attention to the ongoing risks and impacts of long COVID.

Housing

Housing plays a major role in the health and wellbeing of people with disability by providing shelter, safety and security. People with disability are at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, housing dissatisfaction, poor quality and/or inaccessible housing, and housing unaffordability. The housing situation, both public and private, for people with disability is nothing short of a crisis with multiple barriers preventing individuals from being able to choose where they live, with whom they live, and how they live.

The dominant challenges identified through the Disability Royal Commission include tenancy insecurity, difficulties accessing social housing, difficulty finding physically accessible homes, poor response to high rates of homelessness among people with disability, and substandard housing and living conditions in supported boarding houses. In order to uphold the access and inclusion rights of people with disability, their housing needs must be a priority.

Education

Access to quality education is universally recognised as a key pathway to the achievement of social, economic, political and human rights, especially for children. It is acknowledged around

the world that access to education is intrinsically linked to key developmental indicators and milestones from child development to employment. Access to education is not only formative, it underpins other fundamental rights and has rippling impacts felt across all aspects of our lives.

Numerous reviews and, more recently, the hearings of the Disability Royal Commission reiterate that too many students with disability experience educational disadvantage through barriers to education, poor completion, poor attainment, and harm within education settings. In the last decade, the highest level of educational attainment for people with disability has improved but remains lower than for people without disability. Too many students with disability remain in segregated settings, despite there being no evidence that such settings lead to improved life outcomes, attainment or employment for people with disability.

The Disability Royal Commission identified a need for dedicated strategies and spends with key funding agreements between the States and Territories and the Commonwealth in these areas.

What do we want the next Government to do?

Include dedicated disability funding and commitments and improvement goals in each funding agreement for health, housing and education and undertake the following work and strategies:

Health

- Expand the capacity of the health workforce to engage with people with cognitive disability and implement specialised health and mental health services for people with cognitive disability.
- Embed the right to equitable access to health in key policy instruments for health services.
- Fund a program of work to ensure that adaptations and supports are available within all publicly funded healthcare settings. For instance, the acute areas of every teaching hospital should have height adjustable beds, communication boards and other kit within three years.
- Fund a program of upgrades to accessible kit in key general practice, dentistry and diagnostic settings
- Fund healthcare navigators to support people with disabilities in care in healthcare settings.
- Undertake priority work to address violence against women with disability and invest in this through funding agreements
- Maintain and boost the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- Introduce free dentistry
- Recognise clean air as an accessibility issue, adopt the recommendations of the clean air report, prioritise COVID safety in health settings, enhance funding for long COVID care, research and rehabilitation and stand up necessary supports to people with disability who remain isolated due to the ongoing pandemic.

Education

- Agree a 28-year phase out of all segregated schools

- Institute a legal entitlement for students with a disability to enrol at a local mainstream school
- Support steps to prevent the exclusionary discipline of students with disability and improve policies and procedures on the provision of reasonable adjustments. They also recommended careers guidance and transition support service for people with disabilities
- Lift student with disability funding loadings.

Housing

- Provide Federal Government leadership to ensure national consistency in implementing the National Construction Code across all jurisdictions.
- In line with RIA we support the establishment of a national home modifications program, similar in design to England's Disabled Facilities Grant, which through a housing appropriation provides the bulk of funding to individuals based on their mobility requirements relative to the home in which they dwell, and is not tied wholly to their eligibility to social care programs such as the NDIS or My Aged Care, or any other qualifying care/support based programs
- The NDIA should incrementally wind back the current SDA program and target individual participants and their housing needs specifically, rather than attempt to address the chronic shortage of suitably designed housing through a broad approach of incentives for private developers.
- Ensure that national work on housing and planning reforms prioritises preferential land release where it includes built form that is both affordable and accessible
- Increase funding for accessible public housing and community housing
- Ensure Federal Funding for homelessness services includes a focus on providing accessible services
- Prioritize accessible housing which meets the gold standard within the National Housing Accord and housing funded through the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF)
- Fund housing advocates within DPO's to support with specialised housing advocacy

End the violence

What is the problem?

People with disability are more likely to experience all kinds of violence and to be in the spaces and places where violence occurs.

What is the evidence?

People with disabilities have the right to live free from all forms of violence. They have the right to found a family, to decide on the number and spacing of their children, and to have access to appropriate education and resources to enable them to exercise these rights. However, ableism, stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities means that these rights are not upheld in the ACT.

The intersection of gendered and ableist drivers of violence leads to a higher rate of violence experienced by women* with disabilities in the ACT. They experience violence in unique ways and in different settings to people without disabilities, leading to barriers to accessing response services and limitations in current prevention strategies and policy.

Ableism, stigma and discrimination also impacts parents and children with disabilities, resulting in overrepresentation in the child protection system and barriers to accessing the support, education and resources they need.

Navigating different services including disability services, pensions, housing, NDIS, violence response services and informal parenting supports can be a challenge for people with disabilities in a complex and uncoordinated support system.

Significant investment is needed to work to prevent violence against people with disabilities, to protect the right to parent and support families, and to ensure that support services are connected, navigable and disability-informed.

What do we want the next Government to do?

- Fund dedicated work and resources for women at risk of domestic violence, fund strategies and commit to phasing out settings and circumstances where abuse occurs including segregated housing, schools, and employment
- Mandate disability death review panels in jurisdictions
- Prioritise Disability Royal Commission recommendations which directly relate to violence prevention