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## DAACCS LATEST NEWS

January 2024

[www.daaccs.com.au](http://www.daaccs.com.au)

[Disability Aging And Community Care Services |](#)

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Our Mission statement has always been: ***To be an industry leading provider of disability, aged care and community care services***, this Local Business of the year award goes a long way to seeing DAACCS achieving this goal.

For the first time in 2023 DAACCS teamed up with CPSE and offered arts and crafts and cooking group supports for NDIS participants, aimed at increasing creativity, self-confidence, enhancing independence, encouraged healthy eating, positive engagement and building relationships with others. It was reported that by engaging in the groups it reduced stress, improved mental wellbeing and enhance creativity. These groups were very well received, and we are working on expanding our range of classes and 1:1 skill development training to expand our scope of work in 2024.

DAACCS opened 3 new SIL houses throughout 2023, these are in addition to our Valley House and STA Farmhouse and Florey House. We are opening another 2 houses very soon.

If you would like to access respite, please contact us and we can organise a visit or stay at our new Florey House or Farmhouse.

### Operations Managers' Message

Welcome to 2024! As many of you may have already known, I was away on extended sick leave in 2023. Apologies for our newsletter not being sent out in my absence.

I am looking forward to reconnecting with you all and meeting our new participants too! Whilst I was away DAACCS passed its mid-term NDIS audit process with flying colours our final audit is due March 2024.

Thank you to all who participated in the audit process thus far and be assured DAACCS will continue to work with you all to ensure our services are delivered with quality, care and focus on your needs and wishes.

As you are all probably aware by now, DAACCS was announced as the Winner of Canberra Local business of the year 2023 – Health Improvement Services.



Fun Fact: If you think it is cold in Canberra, try -53.6 Celsius. This extremely low temperature was recorded on 21 July 1983 at the Russian operated Vostok station on Antarctica. While colder temperatures have been found by instruments in the earth's core under Antarctica, they do not count as recorded weather so the record still stands.



## LATEST NDIS NEWS

### Towards a 10-year ACT Disability Strategy

A publicly available online survey was hosted on the ACT Government YourSay website and was open from 31 March to 10 August 2022.

The survey was developed under guidance from the ACT Disability Reference Group as a collaboration between the Community Services Directorate and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate within the ACT Government.

The survey was strength-based, meaning questions emphasised the autonomy and capability of respondents. Respondents were allowed to answer both for themselves and on behalf of the adult or child that they cared for.

The survey had 5 parts:

- 1 About you
- 2 Living with disability
- 3 Challenges
- 4 Community attitudes
- 5 Priorities and actions.

In the survey, they asked people to think about:

- What helps create a welcoming community for people with disability?
- What are the barriers and challenges facing people with disability?
- What actions should be taken to make it easier for people with disability to live the kind of life they want to live?

Following is a report on the community responses to the above 5 sections.

Many people identified with more than one role:



- 33% of people with disability responding to the survey also cared for and/or had a family member with disability

- 17% of people with disability also had a role as a service provider or advocate.

Respondents represented a cross-section of the community:

- 74% of the people that completed the survey were female, 18% male and 4% non-binary

- 51% of people were aged between 35 and 64 years old; 7% were under 24; 18% were 25–34 years old; and 24% were over 55 years

- 63% of people with disability who took the survey identified that they were employed

- 47% of all people who completed the survey were working full-time, 21% were working part-time or casually and 11% were retired.

The survey asked family members/carers who they were representing through the survey—45% of the people with disability represented by a family member were students.

Full Report available at [Towards a 10-year ACT Disability Strategy — A listening report 2022 \(amazonaws.com\)](https://www.amazonaws.com)



## Moving out of home? Need home and living supports?

There are many reasons for moving out of your current living arrangement. It's important to think about the type of housing you will move into and where it should be located, as well as the services you will need to be able to live there.

For people with disability, there can be an extra list of factors to think about and challenges to overcome to make the move successful, if you are thinking of making the change, please do not hesitate to contact DAACCS so we can support you through the planning and transition process.

There are lots of different reasons why a person with disability might want to move out of their current living situation.

### **Examples of participants who may require home and living support include, but are not limited to:**

- Participants whose living arrangement is no longer suitable for their disability-related needs.
- Participants who have restricted or limited mobility and are limited by their accommodation and unable to carry out day to day activities or have difficulties accessing facilities e.g. bathroom, kitchen, toilet, inside and outside of their accommodation safely.
- Participants who have a need for specialist home and living solutions to provide a basis for the provision of suitable care – for example an adult participant with complex behaviour support needs.
- Participants who have somewhere to live, but their quality of life would be significantly improved by moving to alternative suitable accommodation or accessing additional support.
- Participants who are currently in health care facilities who are unable to return to their preadmission accommodation setting safely when discharged from the health care facility.
- Participants who are currently living in any other accommodation that is temporary, unsafe or unsuitable and mainstream services / community supports are unable to provide a suitable alternative due to the participants disability related needs.

### **Home and living**

The NDIS can assist participants to live independently. Participants and their families can discuss their home and living goals as part of their planning conversation. A participant's plan will include the supports the NDIS will fund as well as the supports the participant will need to access through the housing system.

Most participants will continue to access housing in the private market by owning or renting, or through social housing.

Supported independent living is one type of support. It includes help or supervision with daily tasks, like personal care or cooking meals. It helps you live as independently as possible, while building your skills.

Supported independent living is for people with higher support needs, who need some level of help at home all the time.

Supported independent living is best suited to people with a disability who have higher support needs.

This means you need a significant amount of help throughout the day, 7 days a week. This includes overnight support. You can get supported independent living if you live with other NDIS participants. You can also get supported independent living if you live on your own, but there might be other [home and living supports](#) that suit you better.



## Final Report: Disability Royal Commission

The Royal Commission has made 222 recommendations on how to improve laws, policies, structures and practices to ensure a more inclusive and just society that supports the independence of people with disability and their right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. All Disability Royal Commission Reports and Issues Papers are on their website with Auslan and Easy Read versions available.

[Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#)

### **'Working together to deliver the NDIS' report.**

Below is the link to the official NDIS Review page with the full report, easy read documents, fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and supporting evidence.

Full review: [Working together to deliver the NDIS | NDIS Review](#)

Fact Sheets and frequently asked questions: [Resources | NDIS Review](#)

Easy read NDIS Review recommendations and Actions: [A better NDIS - NDIS Review recommendations and actions](#)

There are 26 recommendations in total: [Recommendations and actions | NDIS Review](#)

The recommendations aim to:

- Create a connected system of supports for all people with disability. This includes Foundational Supports and better access to mainstream services
- Ensure people with disability and their families have more help to navigate the new system of support
- Ensure NDIS processes, especially for access and budget setting, are simpler, fairer and easier to navigate
- Ensure NDIS processes focus on the whole person and their support needs – not just their diagnosis
- Provide more support for decision making so people can have genuine choice and control
- Better support for all children with developmental concerns, delay and disability, and their families
- Improve the availability, diversity and quality of services
- Improve quality of services and ensure appropriate safeguards through better and risk-proportionate regulation
- Secure the future sustainability of the NDIS by delivering better outcomes for people with disability with more responsive, efficient and cost-effective ways of providing support.



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## Canberra Disability Review online magazine

Published quarterly by Advocacy for Inclusion, the Canberra Disability Review offers a platform to highlight and give voice to what matters most to people with disability in the ACT.

» [Canberra Disability Review \(advocacyforinclusion.org\)](http://advocacyforinclusion.org)

### NDIS/ Disability Employment Services (DES) Pathway

The Australian Government is conducting a pilot to better understand what works for NDIS participants when looking for and starting work.

The pilot is open to NDIS participants who want to work, do not have mutual obligations and are in the following locations:

- **Australian Capital Territory**

Eligible participants can discuss their interest with a DES provider or their Local Area Coordinator.

For more information about the pilot, visit [the Department of Social Services website](#).

### Making the NDIS better

NDIS now recognises genuine change is needed to ensure the NDIS works for all people with disability. Working closely with, and listening to people with disability, their families, carers and the sector (the disability community) is the only way to ensure the NDIS is the best it can be. Many of the ideas about how to make the NDIS better have come from the disability community.

#### Working with the disability community

NDIS is engaging with the disability community in different ways. They seek to:

- understand issues from a variety of perspectives
- share problems and work together to come up with solutions
- meet agreed desired outcomes.

#### The co-design process

The NDIS are working collaboratively with stakeholders to:

- explore and define the problems they are trying to solve – are they asking the right questions? Do they understand the problems the Scheme and participants are facing?
- develop potential solutions with the people that will be impacted by NDIS decisions.
- prioritise work – what will make the most impact?
- test and validate the ideas that have come from co-design to make sure the solutions work for everyone and help NDIS achieve goals.
- implement the solutions that have worked.