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| Absolutely everyone State disability plan 2017–2020 |
| Final report summary |

Contents

[Overview 2](#_Toc96014295)

[Our successes 2](#_Toc96014296)

[Inclusive communities 2](#_Toc96014297)

[Health, housing and wellbeing 2](#_Toc96014298)

[Fairness and safety 3](#_Toc96014299)

[Contributing lives 3](#_Toc96014300)

[COVID-19 projects 4](#_Toc96014301)

[More information 5](#_Toc96014302)

# Overview

This is a summary of the final report for **Absolutely everyone: state disability plan 2017–2020**. This summary includes comments about progress against actions in *Absolutely everyone*and the **Victorian autism plan***.* It gives an overview of:

* where we have done well
* where we have learnt lessons
* what key actions we need to take forward into the new four-year state disability plan.

The summary is organised around the four outcomes pillars used in **Absolutely everyone** and the **Victorian autism plan**.

# Our successes

## Inclusive communities

**Community attitudes:** We have done world-leading work to improve community understanding of autism and to change community behaviours. We have also set up baseline measures of people with disability’s experiences of daily life.

Through the new plan, we will build a strong evidence-based approach to changing community attitudes and behaviour.

**Places and spaces**: We have made it easier for people who use enhanced toileting facilities to access public spaces across Victoria. This is through the Changing Places program. We have also improved the **Liveable housing design guidelines** and progressed work between Victorian government agencies and the Commonwealth on the National Construction Code.

**Transport**: We have made progress in how we connect people with disability in our work. We have developed action plans and strategies to improve access to transport. But using transport is still an area of high concern. It will need to be a focus of activity during the life of the new state disability plan.

**Accessibility for kids**: We have made major investments in school buildings that promote inclusion. One example is new blended schools designs such as at Armstrong Creek School. We have also increased the size and range of sport and leisure options for children with disability.

Under the new plan, universal design principles will be a focus across government. These principles will strengthen many of the areas of action listed above.

**Diverse communities**: We have completed projects that meet the needs of communities often not well served by existing policies and services. However, we know that a better way of working is to make inclusive and intersectional approaches everyone’s business. Intersectional approaches and Aboriginal self-determination will be key areas of focus in the new state disability plan.

## Health, housing and wellbeing

**Health**: We have improved the way people with disability access health services. This is also part of our COVID-19 pandemic response (see below).

The next plan will keep building the skills of our health workforce so it can provide high-quality care to people with disability. We also need to keep improving the way our health system provides information. We will draw on the skills and knowledge of people with disability to do this.

**Housing**: We have continued long-term work to make more suitable and less expensive social housing for people with disability. People who need enhanced physical accessibility has been a focus.

**Wellbeing**: We have invested in services for people with dual disability. This includes building the system’s ability to assess and diagnose autistic people.

The new plan offers additional ways to strengthen our work to better meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of people with disability. This includes through putting in place ideas from the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System.

**NDIS** **and workforce**: We have taken actions so the NDIS works better for people with disability. This includes upskilling our disability workforce.

This work will continue through the new state disability plan.

## Fairness and safety

**Family violence**: Victorian people with disability have told us that family violence is still a big concern. And the COVID-19 pandemic has made it worse. We have achieved a lot in preventing family violence and providing tailored help to people with disability. This has been an important part of our work after the Royal Commission into Family Violence. This will continue to be a focus in the new plan.

**Advocacy**: Wehaveexpanded advocacy services to meet a large increase in demand during the pandemic.

**Justice and** **corrections**: We have put programs in place to help people with disability in the justice system. This includes changing how the system works with people with disability. Improving the way people interact with the NDIS will stay a focus of our activity.

**Police**:Wehave made communications from police clearer. We have also improved how police interact with people with disability.

**Assistance animals**:Rules about assistance animalsis an area where Victoria’s progress has slowed. We need to do more work to catch up with work at the national level and make sure Victoria’s approach aligns. Under the new plan, we commit to national regulations that will improve access to assistance animals.

## Contributing lives

**Inclusive education**: We are spending $1.6 billion to transform how our government schools meet the needs of children with disability. How this long-term work rolls out will be a focus throughout the life of the new state plan.

**Employment**: We have built the confidence and ability of employers to hire people with disability. We have seen a welcome increase in the number workers with disability in the public service. But we need to increase this number even more. This includes keeping people with disability in the jobs they get. We also need to make it easier for people to move from schooling into the workforce.

**Voice and leadership**: We have built the ability of Victorian public boards and committees to better include people with disability. We have helped people with disability to get board positions and then to keep them.

We know there is much more to do to promote and recognise people with disability as leaders. In line with this, our new plan will include a focus on **pride and recognition**.

# COVID-19 projects

The COVID-19 pandemic was hard and slowed down the progress of some actions in **Absolutely everyone**. But the COVID-19 response delivered big improvements too. We summarise some here.

| Focus area | Initiative |
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| **Accessible communications** | The COVID-19 Accessible Communications Reference Group guided production of accessible communications during the pandemic.  The state government COVID-19 website has its own disability page. This helps people with a wide range of disabilities to understand the pandemic. |
| **Disability Liaison Officer program** | This program was set up in 2020 to help people with disability to find their way around the health system. It helps people to get COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccines, as well as other vital services. |
| **Disability advocacy** | In May 2020 the Victorian Government increased funding to agencies funded through the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program. This funding was to meet the demand for support through the pandemic.  The government gave extra funding to the disability advocacy sector to respond to COVID-19. This helped improve information and IT. It also helped create tailored programs for diverse and underserved communities. |
| **Emergency management planning** | In 2020 the government got The University of Sydney to partner with disability advocacy organisations on emergency management. The project is to design an inclusive approach for Victoria. East Gippsland Shire, Wellington Shire and Latrobe City are testing the project. |
| **Support for women** | Women with Disabilities Victoria got funding to give women with disability extra information and resources about COVID-19. This included helping the workforce to deliver this information where most needed. |
| **Support for students** | Not-for-profits got funding to help students with disability and their families during the pandemic. This funding helped to create resources and to support students and families. This work focused on student wellbeing and making social connections. |
| **Sport and recreation** | The Community Sport Sector Short-term Survival Package provided funding to disability-focused sporting organisations. |
| **The justice system** | We supported people with disability in the justice system through:   * support officers * funding for assistive technology * new specialist disability advisor roles. |

# More information

To read the full report visit the [Victorian state disability plan website](https://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au/) <https://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au/>.

You can [email the Office for Disability](mailto:ofd@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <ofd@dhhs.vic.gov.au> to find out more. You can also call us on 1300 880 043.

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