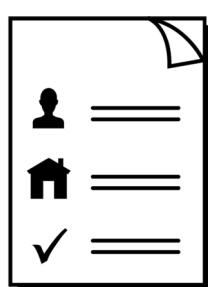




The Victorian autism plan

Progress report



Easy Read



About this booklet



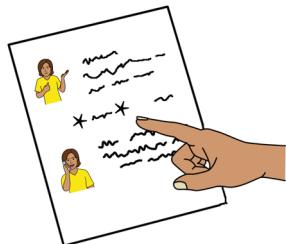
This booklet is from the Victorian Government's Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.



This booklet is written in a way that is easy to understand.



You can read more about this progress report on our [website](http://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-autism-plan-progress-report)
www.vic.gov.au/victorian-autism-plan-progress-report



We add a star before and after ***hard words***. Then we explain what the words mean.



You can ask someone to help you read and understand this booklet.



Contact information is at the end of this booklet.

The Victorian autism plan



The Victorian autism plan helps make things fair and ***inclusive*** for autistic people.



Inclusive means everyone can be part of something.

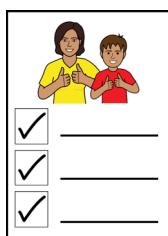


Autism affects how someone

- talks and acts with other people



- experiences the world around them.



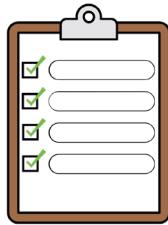
We made changes to the plan in 2023 to make it better.



We said we would give a report to the Minister for Disability and other important groups about how the plan is working.

We call this our progress report.

How the plan is working



The plan has a list of ***actions***.

Actions means the work government will do to make the plan happen.



The work on 10 actions is finished.



The work on 81 actions will

- be finished by December 2025

or



- keep going into the future.



The work on 1 action has been ***delayed***.

Delayed means the work will be done later than planned.

What we have done so far

Early identification and support



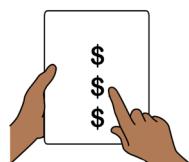
We supported community and Aboriginal health programs to do better autism assessments for children and young people.



We helped put autism coordinators in adult mental health services.



We gave ***funding*** for early autism assessments for children from 1 to 3 years old.



Funding means government money to help pay for important projects for the community.



Adult autism assessments will happen in 5 mental health service providers this year.

Health and wellbeing



Disability Liaison Officers or DLOs work in health services and help autistic people access healthcare.



DLOs in hospitals and health services have made new programs to help more people.



For example

- the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program supports people with disabilities you **cannot see**



- better online questions will help people tell hospitals about their care needs when they use a health service.



We supported mental health providers to train staff to give the best care to people with disability and autistic people.



The Mindful Centre ran 43 workshops for mental health professionals.



The workshops included

- training to understand autism



- skills to help mental health professionals support people with mental health conditions and autism.



The Royal Children's Hospital helped more staff support autistic children in the emergency room.

Education and employment



We have an ***Autism education strategy***.

The strategy will help autistic students.

For example



- support for parents and families of autistic students



- help for schools to support autistic students



- support for autistic students' mental health.



An advisory group works on the strategy.



The group includes school leaders, autism experts, people from autistic-led organisations and people with lived experience.



Over 1,240 Victorian government schools have new funding and support for disability inclusion.



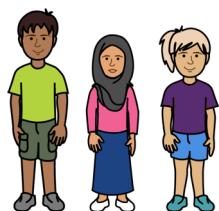
Almost 15,000 ***Disability Inclusion Profile meetings*** have been done.



Disability Inclusion Profile meetings find out what children need at school to help them be part of everything.

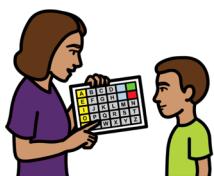


The meetings have helped us understand the needs of students with disability and make good changes in schools.



Hundreds of school staff have done training to support

- autistic students



- students with complex communication needs.



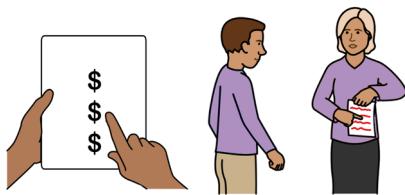
Mental health professionals have done training to support autistic students in high schools.



Autistic people ran ***mentoring*** programs in 157 schools and for 266 schools online.



Mentoring means someone shares their knowledge, skills and experience to support and teach people.



We gave funding to The Gordon Centre of Excellence for Disability Inclusion to make rules and actions for disability inclusion in ***TAFE***.



TAFE is where students can keep learning after they finish high school. It is like university.



We supported universities and organisations to make the ***Neurodiversity employment toolkit***.



The toolkit supports Victorian Government organisations to give jobs to ***neurodivergent*** people.



Neurodivergent means someone's brain differences affect how their brain works.

The way their brain works is **not** bad or wrong, just different.

Information and research

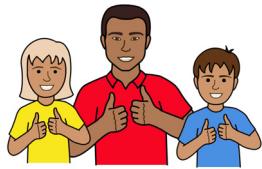


We made changes to the state disability plan and made a report to tell everyone about the work being done.

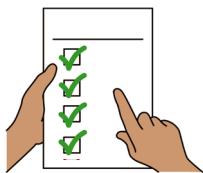


We helped to put all government disability information in 1 place to make it easy to find and use.

Changes to how we work



We will change how we work to make things better for people with disability and autistic people.



The actions in our autism plan will be part of the changes.



Better support for autistic people

It is important that autistic people and their families get support from people who understand what happens in their day to day lives.



We gave funding to people through the ***Disability Self Help Grants program***.



The program gives more support to people with disability and their families.

ACD started a support system for families of children with disability to help them



- meet other families with similar experiences



- get information to support them as carers



- tell people what they think about issues that affect them.

Autistic people help us make changes

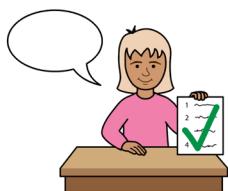


We will listen to what autistic people want and need when we make policies and programs.



Autistic people were part of projects to

- give advice on how the Autism Education Strategy can better help autistic students



- help make the Inclusive Student Voice Toolkit



- help make the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program happen in hospitals



- give advice on the Victorian NDIS Community Advisory Council



- give ideas and feedback to the government's LGBTIQA+ Disability Inclusion Expert Advisory Group.

Work that will happen in 2025



The ***All Abilities Workforce and Sector Support Program*** will start.



The program listens to ideas and feedback from autistic people and people with disability to help organisations support people to work.



The ***Pathway to Good Health Program*** will happen in all parts of Victoria.



The program helps children and young people with ***child protection services*** get good health care.

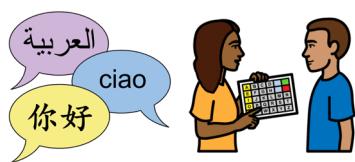


Child protection services work with families and communities to make sure children are safe.



A plain language guide about emergency management will be made for

- people who need help with English
- people with disability.





There will be more autism training for healthcare workers.



We will make a report in 2026 about how the ***Victorian Disability Advocacy Program*** helped people.



The program helps people with disability be part of the community.



A ***Victorian NDIS Justice Handbook*** will be made.



The handbook will help NDIS and ***justice system*** staff work together to support people with disability, including autistic people.



Justice staff can be police, lawyers or court staff.



The Department of Education will make sure disability inclusion happens in all schools.



For example, teachers have the right skills to support all students, including autistic students.

How we know the plan works



Our plan shares ideas and actions with the
***Inclusive Victoria, state disability plan*.**



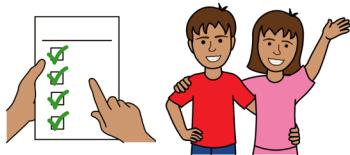
The state disability plan supports disability inclusion across Victoria.



Our plan thinks about the needs of the autism community as part of the state disability plan.



We will talk to organisations and people in the community to check the work we have done.



We will know the actions in our plan have worked if we help make the lives of autistic people better.

What happens next



We will find out if there are other areas we could do work in to support autistic people.



The advisory group will give advice to the government on ways to make services more inclusive and accessible for autistic people.



We will make a report about

- what we did well



- what we can do better.



The Victorian autism plan ends in 2027.



More information



For more information contact the
Office for Disability.



Call 1300 880 043



Email ofd@dffh.vic.gov.au



Website [Office for Disability](http://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/office-disability)
www.dffh.vic.gov.au/office-disability



If you need help to speak or listen, the National Relay Service can help you make a call.



Call 1800 555 660



Website [NRS Helpdesk](http://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-helpdesk)

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In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Available at [Victorian autism plan progress report](http://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-autism-plan-progress-report)
www.vic.gov.au/victorian-autism-plan-progress-report (2504333)