



## **Consultation overview**

Victorian state disability plan  
2017–2020

## Introduction

People with a disability deserve to be treated equally and with respect.

That's why the Victorian Government is developing the state disability plan to build a fairer and more inclusive community for the one in five Victorians with a disability.

The Victorian Government has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders to develop the *Victorian state disability plan 2017–2020*. A formal consultation period ran for six weeks from May to July 2016.

Consultations were undertaken in a number of ways including online and by email, through interviews with key stakeholders and targeted consultations with various groups such as the Council to Homeless Persons, Carers Victoria, the Australian Network on Disability and the Victorian Council of Social Services.

The Victorian Disability Advisory Council also ran a targeted consultation with local government. This document provides a snapshot of some of the many responses received, and highlights key ideas raised during the consultation.

We would like to thank the more than 3000 people who visited the plan's website, and the hundreds who took the time to contribute to the consultation. This information provides a valuable foundation for the work to come. The feedback we received will be used to help inform the final plan which is due to be released by 1 January 2017.

## Who we heard from

Over 3000 people visited our online consultation hub at [www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au](http://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au). One hundred and thirty-nine people contributed to the discussion, offering suggestions and letting us know what matters to them.

We received a total of 111 submissions - 69 from organisations, 22 from local councils and 20 formal submissions from individuals as a response to our discussion paper.

We conducted 17 interviews with key stakeholders.

We commissioned five consultation reports regarding at risk and diverse groups.

The Victorian Disability Advisory Council undertook consultations with local councils and provided a report.

The Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley MP, also held a forum with people with a disability to hear first-hand what would make the most difference in the lives of Victorians with a disability.

# Response Overview

## 111

Submissions to our discussion paper



Our discussion paper was released on 25 May 2016.

We received 69 submissions from organisations, 22 from local councils, and 20 from individuals.

## 14

discussion toolkits



14 toolkits were returned by a range of organisations.

Discussion toolkits were intended to guide conversation and enable groups to generate discussion about the plan.

Toolkits included questions posed in the discussion paper, and offered suggested talking points for further discussion.

## 139

online contributions



The state disability plan website invited individuals to share their stories about living with a disability in Victoria, caring for someone with a disability, and how the state disability plan might reflect their needs.

139 people shared their stories and experiences, creating a valuable foundation for our future work.

## 17

targeted interviews



Targeted interviews with key stakeholders helped us gain an in-depth understanding of particular areas of concern.

## 5

Commissioned consultations



5 consultation reports focussed on at risk and diverse groups were commissioned to ensure all voices were heard.



# Key themes

## 1. Active citizenship

... because people with a disability should be able to participate in community and civic life

You told us:

- People with a disability want to be able to live an **everyday life** where they feel welcomed and part of the community.
- Government should take the lead in ensuring that **information** on its services is easy to understand, accessible and available to people with a disability in various formats.
- The principles of **universal design** should be embedded in all public infrastructure and public transport.
- A disability **awareness campaign** focussing on recognising the abilities of people with a disability and changing community attitudes is needed.
- Initiatives to increase the **representation** of people with a disability on Victorian Government boards and committees, local councils and boards of non-government organisations are needed, including introducing quotas.
- **Sports and recreational facilities** should be accessible and inclusive to people with a disability.

*“...inclusion at school, work, sport and social life...to know your future is as promising as other young people”*

## 2. Rights and equality

... protecting and promoting rights and equal access to opportunities

You told us:

- **Human rights** of people with a disability are paramount.
- There should be more **affordable and accessible housing** made available.
- People with a disability want to feel **safe** and be treated **fairly** in all areas of community life.
- **Health services and facilities** need to be more accessible and inclusive including removing barriers to physical access and providing information in a wide range of accessible formats.
- The plan should incorporate recommendations on **safeguards** and related measures made by the recent inquiries into **violence and abuse**.
- Initiatives to remove barriers to **accessing the justice system**, especially for people with cognitive and intellectual disability, are needed. This includes improving physical accessibility, access to information and better support for individuals with a disability in custody, especially those with a cognitive disability, intellectual disability and complex mental health and drug and alcohol issues.
- **Justice personnel**, including police, lawyers and judges, should be educated on barriers that people with a disability may face when accessing the justice system.

*“Unless someone has experienced constant disrespect they might not understand the effect it has.”*

### 3. Economic participation

... because people with a disability need to be a vital part of Victoria's workforce

You told us:

- People with a disability want to be able to **participate in and contribute to the economy**. Government could assist by showing greater **leadership** in the **employment** of people with a disability and using its **purchasing and procurement power** to encourage business to employ people with a disability.
- Businesses should be **supported and educated** on employing people with a disability. Workplaces need to be supported to be more **accessible, inclusive and responsive** to employees with a disability.
- Governments should explore **incentives to businesses** to encourage them to employ more people with a disability and to implement more **flexible working arrangements** to create employment opportunities.
- **Education** facilities need to be more inclusive and physically accessible. Teaching staff should be provided with better support and training on disability awareness and inclusive practices.
- There should be more **pathways from education to employment** for students with a disability between school, further education, training and employment.

*“To be equal, to be valued and to contribute to the economy of our shires and our State let's make a plan that addresses inclusivity and increased participation.”*

### 4. Making the most of the NDIS

... because mainstream services are critical to the success of the scheme

You told us:

- People with a disability, families and carers should be able to have easy **access to information** on NDIS services and in a range of accessible formats.
- People not eligible for the NDIS need **continuing support and services** from the Victorian Government.
- Victoria's **existing safeguards** for people with a disability need to be maintained, improved and expanded in the full scheme NDIS.
- **Disability service providers** should be supported, educated and trained about the NDIS so they are better prepared for the NDIS rollout.
- Ensure that an ongoing **feedback mechanism** on the NDIS is established.

*“The NDIS and state disability plan should work together...”*

## 5. Other feedback received

You also told us:

- The plan should address the additional disadvantage faced by particularly at risk and **diverse groups** such as people who also identify as Aboriginal, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTI and young children.
- **Governance, accountability, and measuring progress** are important, and should be embedded in government's approach and within the plan.
- There should be more **Changing Places** facilities put in place.
- The work of **RuralAccess and MetroAccess officers** should continue to be supported and funded.
- The Government should support and strengthen the capacity of the Victorian **advocacy sector** in light of the NDIS rollout.

*"The vision has always existed in the eyes, hearts and minds of those who have a disability along with those who support them. It is about making the vision a reality!"*

## Looking ahead

We thank everyone who took part in the consultation.

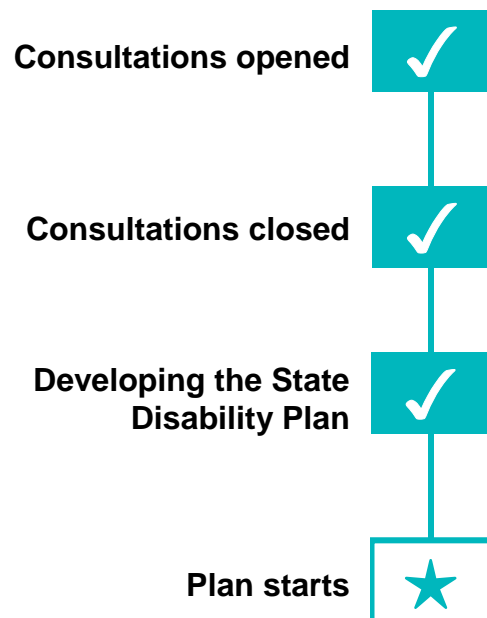
The plan's is being developed and is due to be in place on 1 January 2017.

While submissions are now closed, if you wish to provide us with further input please email:

[ofd@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:ofd@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

We will post updates on progress of developing the plan on the state disability plan website:

[www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au](http://www.statedisabilityplan.vic.gov.au)



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