

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – disability planning

Part 2 Disability planning

The Disability Inclusion Bill 2014 has been passed by the NSW Parliament and is now the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (the Act). Regulations providing more detail on the operation of the Act, the *Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014* (the Regulation), will soon be released for public feedback. Both the Act and the Regulation will commence once the Regulation has been finalised.

When the Act commences, Part 2 requires the NSW Government to develop a four year State Disability Inclusion Plan to guide how all government organisations work towards inclusion. At the next level, it requires NSW Government departments, local councils and other public authorities (set out in the Regulation), to develop and implement Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

What is the State Disability Inclusion Plan?

The State Disability Inclusion Plan sets out whole of government goals to support the inclusion of people with disability in the community, and improve their access to mainstream services and community facilities in NSW.

The State Disability Inclusion Plan also requires government departments to work together, and with local councils and other public authorities, to provide better supports and services to people with disability within local communities through Disability Action Inclusion Plans.

The State Disability Inclusion Plan will be prepared by Family and Community Services, in consultation with people with disability. It is to be tabled by the Minister for Disability Services in NSW Parliament. The plan will be for four years with a review undertaken by the Minister before the end of the four years. The outcome of the review will be reported to NSW Parliament.

What is a Disability Inclusion Action Plan?

A Disability Inclusion Action Plan must be developed by public authorities, including NSW Government departments, local councils and any other public authorities to be set out in the Regulation.

These plans will set out the actions to be put in place so that people with disability can participate fully in the local community and can access supports and services provided by the responsible authority.

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This is fact sheet 2 of 5 on the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*. Visit www.facs.nsw.gov.au/dia to access all fact sheets on the Act.

An action plan must address:

- how the *Disability Inclusion Act's* principles will be addressed
- strategies to support people with disability
- how people with disability were consulted
- how it supports the State Disability Inclusion Plan
- additional requirements to be set out in the Regulation.

An authority's action plan will be made available to the public and must be reviewed, in consultation with people with disability, every four years.

The progress and implementation of the plan must be reported on annually in the authority's annual report. The Minister for Disability Services must also be informed of each action plan's progress annually which will be used to report to NSW Parliament on the implementation of the State Disability Inclusion Plan including the Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

Consultation with people with disability

The Act requires that the State Disability Inclusion Plan and all Disability Inclusion Action Plans are developed in consultation with people with disability. This will help to ensure plans are meaningful, relevant, practical and reflective of the needs of people with disability.

Consultation with Disability Council NSW

The Disability Council NSW has an expanded role, which includes advising the NSW Government on the State Disability Inclusion Plan and Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

The Act allows a public authority to consult with the Disability Council NSW in the preparation of its Disability Inclusion Action Plan. It also requires that a copy of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan be given to the Disability Council NSW.

Guidelines and supporting tools to be developed

The NSW Government is developing guidelines and supporting tools in relation to Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

Local councils, government departments and other public authorities are required to use these guidelines when preparing their plans.

NOTE: the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* does not start until the date appointed by Proclamation. This fact sheet will be updated once the *Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014* is in place. To find out more about the Act and the Regulation, visit www.facs.nsw.gov.au/dia, email disabilityinclusionact@facs.nsw.gov.au, or call 1800 446 470.

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