



## What to expect from Session 2

Ready, set research! What's coming

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## Summary

### About the National Disability Research Partnership

The National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP) funds research led by and with people with disability. Our vision is policy and practice in Australia are transformed by disability-led research. We prioritise co-design, collaboration, and accessibility, ensuring people with disability are not just participants but leaders and co-creators of research.

The NDRP will open applications for our first round of funding in 2025 ([Round 1](#)) on 17 March 2025. We have published our funding information including an overview, the funding guidelines and frequently asked questions on our website and it is available [here](#).

There will be two funding streams:

- Seed funding for projects to co-design research about safety of people with disability
- Projects to synthesise knowledge about safety of people with disability

To ensure people have the information and guidance to develop strong, competitive applications, we are planning a range of information and activities.

#### Why is the NDRP running these sessions?

The NDRP is supporting people and organisations to lead, create, and use research led by and with people with disability. This aligns with NDRP [Guiding Principles](#) and we are focused on research that makes a real impact on policy and practice. The information and guidance are a key part of [NDRP's strategy and workplan](#) to support people with disability, researchers, organisations, and policymakers—to engage meaningfully in the disability-led and inclusive research we fund.

### What you will find in this document

- the agenda for the session on 6 March 2025, with names and times,
- details about the speakers,
- information to help you get ready,
- questions people often ask, and
- some of the key terms explained in plain language.



## The agenda

### Thursday 6 March 2025 1-2.30pm AEDT (90 minutes)

1:00 pm AEDT – Session 1 (5 mins) Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country:

- 5 mins: Mary Sayers, CEO, NDRP, opens the event.

1:05 pm AEDT – Session 2 (10 mins) Overview of Funding Round 1:

- 5 mins: Mary explains the NDRP's Strategic Agenda and Guiding Principles
- 5 mins: Mary explains the research topic 'Safety' and the 2 types of projects to be funded in Round 1

1:15 pm AEDT – Session 3 (30 mins) Funding Round 1: Details of the Guidelines:

- 5 mins: Gillian Mason, Head of Research Program, NDRP, explains the expected outcomes, the purpose of possible projects including what should be covered in a project budget
- 10 mins: Gillian talks more about the two streams of funding available in Round 1
- 5 mins: Gillian explains who you might partner with, what is a 'Lead Organisation', a 'Project Lead' and who might be on project teams
- 5 mins: Gillian explains the eligibility and assessment criteria
- 5 mins: Gillian explores how to develop a grant application

*1:45 pm AEDT Screen break (10 mins)*

1:55 pm AEDT – Session 4 (30 mins) Open forum for questions:

- 15 mins: Mary and Gillian will answer questions submitted before the session
- 15 mins: Mary and Gillian will answer questions from the session audience

2:25 pm AEDT – Session 5 (5 mins) Resources and next steps:

- 5 mins: Mary and Gillian discuss key messages, next steps and Mary closes the session



## Speakers

WHAT'S COMING SESSION  
NDRP Host

NDRP



Mary Sayers – CEO, National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP)

Mary Sayers (she/her) leads the NDRP, driving inclusive research by and with people with disability. She has family and personal experience of disability. With extensive experience in policy and systems change, she is committed to research that delivers real-world benefits and empowers people with disability.

WHAT'S COMING SESSION  
NDRP Speaker

NDRP



Gillian Mason – Head of Research Program, NDRP

Gillian Mason (she/her) is a disabled researcher, physiotherapist, and science communicator. She has experience in co-design, co-production, and disability-inclusive research. Her approach is informed by her lived experience as a participant, end-user, and co-designer of research.



## Frequently asked questions

### What can I do to prepare?

We encourage all attendees to familiarise themselves with key documents before the session:

- The NDRP [Round 1 funding](#) information (new-released on 27<sup>th</sup> February)
- The NDRP [Research Agenda](#) and in particular, page 17 of the PDF document for more detail for the Round 1 topic of Safety
- NDRP [Guiding Principles](#)
- Do you have question? [Submit your question before the session here.](#)

You can think about some things before the session, such as:

- How might research teams' ideas or interests align with NDRP's principles and priorities?
- Do teams have specific questions about the funding guidelines or NDRP principles?
- Are there areas of the funding process or expectations that feel unclear?

### How can I participate in the Session?

We want everyone to feel comfortable participating in a way that suits them during this session.

Here's how you can engage:

- **Ask questions:** Use the Chat feature to ask questions at any time. Our facilitators will review and read out questions, during the Q&A session so everyone can hear and engage with the discussion. You can also use the Chat feature to share your thoughts or ideas throughout the session.
- **Updating your profile name in Zoom:** We encourage you to update your profile name in Zoom to reflect your name and pronouns.

**Creating a respectful and inclusive space:**

- Avoid using acronyms or jargon. If you do, please explain or spell them out clearly so everyone understands.
- Use and respect people's preferred pronouns and language, such as "person with disability" or "disabled person."
- Use strengths-based language that promotes respect, understanding, and acceptance.



## **Will the session be recorded?**

Yes, the session will be recorded and will be made available on the [NDRP YouTube channel](#). This session will be recorded so we can share it with those unable to attend live. The recording will include what is shared during the session. If you do not want to appear in the recording, please turn your camera off.

## **Can I take a break?**

Yes, there will be a 10 minute break after about 45 mins. You are also welcome to take additional breaks whenever you need to. You are welcome to stay in the session during these breaks.

## **Will there be captioning?**

Yes, captions will be available during the session. A professional captioner will type what is said for accuracy. To turn captions on or off, click the “More” button (three dots) in the Zoom menu and select “Captions.”

## **Will there be Auslan interpreters?**

Yes, Auslan interpreters will be available for the whole session.

## **Who will be attending?**

Attendees will include people with disability, family members, researchers, policymakers, advocates, service providers, and government representatives.

## **What if my question doesn't get answered in the session?**

If your question isn't answered, or if you have additional questions afterward, you can email us at [info@ndrp.org.au](mailto:info@ndrp.org.au). If questions arise at these sessions that we haven't answered before, then they will be added to the FAQ section on the [NDRP website](#) to ensure all applicants have access to the same information.

## **What if I have technical difficulties or need help?**

We will have support available to assist. You can send a message in the Zoom Chat function or email Sue Tape, Head of Evidence to Action who is organising this event at [info@ndrp.org.au](mailto:info@ndrp.org.au).

Please take care of yourself and your wellbeing during these conversations. If you feel upset or need support, [click here for services that can help](#).



## Key terms

### Co-design

Co-design is a term that is being used often, and to mean different things! When we say co-design, we don't mean consultation or engagement. The 'co' is about being collaborative. The 'design' means making something. In the co-design of research, this means working together to come up with ideas, possible solutions, outcomes, approaches and methods that could be used in a future research project. Design usually means doing this over a few rounds of testing, and refining with each other, before final decisions are made. Co-design needs shared understanding, access and relationships to be established before the design can start.

### Co-production

Co-design is one part of co-production. Co-production means working collaboratively, in ways that respect different ways of being, as well as different sources of knowledge, to deliver an outcome. Other terms such as co-creation, or participatory ways of working are sometimes used interchangeably.

### Cultural safety

Ensuring people feel socially, emotionally, and spiritually safe, free from racism or discrimination. Cultural safety is determined by the people and communities involved, not by simply following a checklist of practices.

### Person with disability

NDRP recognises the diversity of people with disability. Disability may impact participation in society due to barriers, but it can also be an important part of identity. Some, like Autistic and Deaf communities, may not identify as disabled. NDRP aims to be inclusive of all disability experiences.<sup>1</sup>

### Disability-led research

Disability-led research ensures people with disability have meaningful roles and influence throughout the project. Leadership may be through researchers with disability, Disabled People's Organisations, individuals in key positions, or governance structures that support genuine involvement.

### Disability-inclusive research

This means valuing and involving people with disability at every stage of research—from shaping ideas to conducting studies and sharing findings in accessible ways.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)



## High-quality research

High-quality research is ethical, rigorous, and transparent. It builds on existing knowledge, asks clear questions, and uses reliable methods. In the NDRP context, this cannot happen without the leadership and involvement of people with disability.

## Leading and learning together

Producing great research requires investment in people, systems, and infrastructure. It also needs a culture of care and collaboration, ensuring researchers and communities have the skills, resources, and support to do and use research.

## Knowledge

Knowledge comes from academic and community research, lived, cultural, and service experience, and practical expertise.

## Knowledge mobilisation

This means making knowledge ready for action—sharing, exchanging, and making sense of it in ways that are useful and accessible for co-designing research.

## Knowledge synthesis

Bringing together what is known about a topic in a rigorous and transparent way to assess and summarise key insights.

## Evidence for action

Research that is designed to inform real-world policy, programs, and practices for people with disability.

## Intersectionality

“We do not live single-issue lives” – Audre Lorde<sup>2</sup>. Intersectionality recognises that different aspects of identity—such as race, gender, disability, and class—intersect to create unique experiences of discrimination or privilege. Research must consider these complexities, especially for marginalised groups.

## Cultural competence

Having the skills, knowledge and experience to work ethically and effectively where there is more than one culture at play. To be culturally competent means having an understanding of one’s own cultural values and world view, and an awareness that people have different needs because of their own cultural or linguistic background. It means that people and organisations consider and respond to cultural diversity and difference.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Sins Invalid. (2015). 10 principles of disability justice. Sins Invalid. <https://sinsinvalid.org/10-principles-of-disability-justice/>

<sup>3</sup> Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia 2019, Cultural competence in Australia: a guide, FECCA, Deakin, Link: <http://fecca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Cultural-Competence-in-Australia-A-Guide.pdf>