



National Disability
Research Partnership

Engagement paper

Feedback on the NDRP research agenda

April 2023

Disability research is important

Good research can help make sure people with disability live fulfilling lives and get the same rights as everybody else.

The **National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP)** is making sure people with disability lead and are involved in decisions about what areas of research are most important.

We need to be sure that we are asking the right research questions and using research funding in the best possible way.

To support this, the NDRP has developed a draft plan for disability research. This is called the draft Research Agenda. It includes research topics and questions that people with disability and other stakeholders told us are important and should be researched in the coming years.

The NDRP Research Agenda will help to guide what research is funded by the NDRP over the next 10 years.

The NDRP is a key initiative under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031. It will be instrumental in building the evidence base for the Strategy to help to improve outcomes for people with disability.

We want to know what research is important to you

This document helps to explain what research areas and topics have been included so far.

We want to know what you think about these areas that were identified for research during the initial consultations.

We want to know what areas you think are most important for research.

We want to know if there is anything else that you think is important for researchers to look at.

Tell us what you think

You can tell us what you think about these research areas by:

- » going to our [online feedback form](#) and answering the questions. You can use this form to tell us which research areas you think the NDRP should make a priority and add your ideas about what is missing.
- » sending us an **email** about what you think the NDRP should make a priority and add your ideas about what is missing info@ndrp.org.au
- » attending a workshop, if you are invited, where you will be asked about what areas of research are most important to you and any other areas you think should be included in the NDRP's Research Agenda.

Draft research areas

The current priority research topics for the NDRP are grouped into 12 areas.

What do you think is most important to know about each area? Are there any areas missing?



Employment of people with disability

- How there can be more employment of people with disability



Transition of young people with disability from education to employment

- Challenges for young people with disability when moving from school to employment



Housing for people with disability

- What impacts the availability of affordable housing for people with disability
- The best ways to provide accessible housing where people with disability have more choice and independence



Accessible communities

- What factors impact on people with disability being able to participate in and access all parts of society
- What information and communication systems are needed to make sure people with disability can fully participate



Safety of people with disability

- The causes of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability and what is needed to ensure people are safe from harm
- The experiences of people with disability when accessing the justice system



Upholding and promoting rights of people with disability

- How the rights of people with disability can be promoted, upheld and protected
- How to best support people with disability to exercise their rights and make decisions about their own lives



Personal and community support for people with disability

- How well people with disability are able to access the supports they need
- How to acknowledge and support the role of informal support
- How people with disability can best be supported to access assistive technology



The design, implementation and impact of the NDIS

- How to make sure the NDIS provides eligible people with access to reasonable and necessary disability supports



Education and learning for children with disability

- How we can make sure children with disability access and participate in high-quality early childhood education and care
- How to build capability to deliver inclusive education



Education and learning for adults with disability

- How to improve access to further education and training for people with disability
- How to increase opportunities for people with disability to participate in accessible and inclusive lifelong learning



Health and wellbeing for people with disability

- How we can make sure all health service providers have the capabilities to meet the needs of people with disability
- How to improve access to health services
- How to improve mental health supports and services
- How to make sure disaster preparedness, risk management plans and public emergency responses are inclusive and supportive of people with disability



Community attitudes towards people with disability

- How to increase representation of people with disability in leadership roles
- How to improve community attitudes towards people with disability

Research about employment of people with disability



We need to understand how there can be **more employment** of people with disability

- » What are the barriers to employment?
- » What needs to be done to help people with disability get employment?
- » What needs to be done to help people with disability maintain employment? This includes understanding the career paths for people with disability.
- » What helps people with intellectual disability to find and maintain employment?

- » What makes a workplace inclusive and how can workplaces be more inclusive?
- » How do we improve community and employer attitudes about employment of people with disability?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve employment for people with disability?

Research about the transition of young people with disability from education to employment



We need to **understand the issues faced** by young people with disability when moving from school to employment

- » How does access to NDIS supports influence the decisions and pathways for people with disability after they leave school?
- » What helps young people to go from school into employment?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve the transition from school to employment for young people with disability?

Research about **housing** for people with disability



We need to understand what **impacts the availability of affordable housing** for people with disability

- » What affects access to affordable housing for people with disability?
- » What are the experiences of people with disability in getting housing that is affordable and accessible?
- » What are the pathways into and out of homelessness for people with disability and how can homelessness be prevented?
- » What do public housing staff know about the needs of people with disability?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve housing for people with disability?

We also need to understand the best ways to provide **accessible housing where people with disability have more choice and independence**

- » What supports are needed to enable people with disability to live independently?
- » What models of housing work best, including to promote the inclusion of people with disability with mental health issues?

Research about accessible communities



We need to understand what factors have an impact on people with disability being able to **participate in and access all parts of society**

- » What are the social and economic benefits of inclusion of people with disability?
- » What is needed to ensure accessibility of transport systems and the built and natural environment?
- » How are the experiences of people with disability shaped by place and geography (urban, regional, rural, remote)?

We also need to understand what **information and communication systems** are needed to make sure people with disability can fully participate

- » What are the capacity and demands for Auslan interpreters and how can more capacity be built?
- » What strategies enable people with communication difficulties to participate in society and to receive the services and supports they need?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to make communities more accessible for people with disability?

Research about **safety** of people with disability and to ensure they **are safe** from harm



We need to understand the **causes of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation** of people with disability and what is needed to ensure people are safe from harm

- » How can we reduce and prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability?
- » What reforms are needed to prevent violence and abuse in institutional settings?
- » What types of services, systems and policies best prevent violence and abuse against people with disability? This includes strategies for people who are more vulnerable to violence and abuse including women and girls with disability, people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and people with communication difficulties.
- » What supports children and young people as they transition to adulthood, including to support them to develop their sexuality and positive relationships?
- » What are the experiences of First Nations Australians with disability who have experienced intergenerational trauma? What specific policies, practices and strategies are needed to support them?

We need to understand the experiences of people with disability when **accessing the justice system**

- » What are the experiences and barriers for people with disability accessing the justice system?
- » In particular, what are the experiences of people with intellectual disability with the legal and criminal justice systems? Are their rights being upheld? What are the impacts of these experiences on people with intellectual disability?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve safety of people with disability and make sure they have equal access to the justice system?

Research about upholding and promoting rights of people with disability



We need to understand how the **rights of people with disability can be promoted, upheld and protected.**

- » To what extent are the human rights of people with disability being upheld in Australia? What actions might improve Australia's performance with respect to upholding the human rights of people with disability?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to uphold the rights of people with disability?

We also need to understand how to best support people with disability to **exercise their rights and make decisions about their own lives**

- » What models of supported decision-making are working best?
- » How are current guardianship systems and systems for substitute decision-making upholding and protecting the rights of people with disability?
- » How can the capacity for self-advocacy of people with disability be developed and supported?
- » How can people with disability be supported to make decisions about their own end of life care?

Research about personal and community support for people with disability



We need to understand how well people with disability are able to access the supports they need

- » How do we design service systems so they are integrated and people with disability are not ‘falling through the cracks’ between systems such as disability, health and education?
- » How can people with disability be supported to access the services and supports they need across disability, health, education and justice?
- » How can services and supports for people with disability adapt across transitions to different life stages such as moving out of home?
- » What are the experiences of children with disability in out of home care? How can they be best supported?
- » What are the experiences of older Australians with disability and how can they be supported?

We need to understand how to acknowledge and support the role of informal support

- » How can parents, siblings, other family members and allies be supported to provide supports to the people with disability they care for?

- » What are the long-term health and financial impacts of caring on carers? What are the financial impacts of caring on ageing carers, particularly women?
- » What are the finances of families like when there is a family member with disability?

We need to understand how people with disability can best be supported to access assistive technology

- » How can assistive technology support people with disability to live independently and participate equally in society?
- » How can assistive technology be made more affordable and accessible to people with disability?
- » How can advances in assistive technology be prioritised to enable equal opportunities for people with disability.

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve personal and community support for people with disability?

We need to understand how to make sure that the NDIS provides eligible people with access to **reasonable and necessary disability supports**

- » How can the NDIS be designed and implemented to achieve the best outcomes for people with disability?
- » What are the impacts of NDIS funded services and supports currently in use?
- » What are the examples of innovative practice in disability services and supports? How could we learn from these? How could they be implemented more broadly?
- » How has access to NDIS supports affected the experiences of NDIS participants after leaving school?
- » What are the social and economic costs and benefits of the NDIS for participants, families and society?
- » Is the NDIS equitable? How do we make sure everybody gets fair outcomes?
- » What are the experiences of people with psychosocial disability in accessing and managing NDIS services and supports?
- » Are there additional barriers for people with disability who are First Nations or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in accessing and managing NDIS supports?
- » Does the NDIS provide enough support to prevent avoidable hospitalisations?
- » What could be improved about how the NDIS interacts with the health and education systems?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve the way the NDIS supports people with disability

Research about education and learning for children with disability



We need to understand how we can make sure children with disability can access and participate in **high-quality early childhood education and care**

- » How could governments improve their policies and practices for supporting children with disability in early childhood education and care?

We need to understand how to **build capability to deliver inclusive education**

- » How do supports and 'reasonable adjustments' for students with disability in school affect their access, participation and educational outcomes?
- » How could governments improve their policies and practices for supporting school students with disability?
- » How can teachers promote independence for students with disability?
- » What are the major problems with the education system? How is this affecting transitions to further training and education?
- » How can assessment practices be modified so students with disability are not disadvantaged?
- » How can the interaction between the NDIS and the education system be improved?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve education and learning for children with disability?

Research about education and learning for young people and adults with disability



We need to understand how to **improve pathways and accessibility to further education and training** for people with disability

- » How do supports and 'reasonable adjustments' for students with disability in higher learning affect their access, participation and educational outcomes?
- » How could governments improve their policies and practices for supporting students with disability in tertiary education?
- » What are the experiences of First Nations Australians with disability and Australians with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in tertiary education?
- » How can the voices and stories of students with disability better inform the tertiary sector to be more responsive to their needs?
- » What teaching practices in TAFEs and universities are most effective in supporting students with disability?
- » How can assessment practices be modified so students with disability are not disadvantaged?

We need to understand how to increase opportunities for people with disability to participate in **accessible and inclusive lifelong learning**

- » How could governments improve their policies and practices for supporting students with disability in lifelong learning?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve education and learning for adults with disability?

Research about health and wellbeing



We need to understand how we can make sure all health service providers have the **capabilities to meet the needs of people with disability**

- » How do health care providers perceive people with disability? How can this be improved?

We also need to understand how to **improve access to health services**

- » What are the experiences of people with disability with the health system?
- » What are the barriers to access to mainstream health services? How can these be overcome?

We need to understand how to improve **mental health supports and services**

- » What mental health supports do people with intellectual disability need?
- » What mental health supports do young people with disability need?
- » How can the interaction between the NDIS and the mental health system be improved?
- » What are the barriers to access to mainstream mental health services. How can these be overcome?
- » How could mental health providers get better at providing services for people with disability?

We need to understand how to make sure **disaster preparedness, risk management plans and public emergency responses** are inclusive and supportive of people with disability

- » What were the experiences of people with disability during COVID-19? What can be learnt for future health system reform for people with disability?
- » How might climate change impact people with disability? What should we do to prepare?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve the health and wellbeing of people with disability?

Research about community attitudes



We need to understand how to **increase representation of people with disability in leadership roles**

- » What helps people with disability to move forward in their careers and gain leadership positions?
- » How can people with disability be supported with taking on leadership positions?

We need to understand how to **improve community attitudes towards people with disability**

- » What types of discrimination do people with invisible disability, mental health problems and/or intellectual disability experience?
- » How can society better understand the strengths and contributions of people with disability?
- » How can we make community attitudes more inclusive?

Questions:

- » Are these the right questions?
- » What do you think is most important to know about this?
- » Are there other topics and questions to research that might help to improve community attitudes toward people with disability?