

## Influence policy and culture to promote an inclusive society

Approximately 17% of the ACT community identifies as having a disability. As stated in *Building Our Community: The Canberra Social Plan*, all people with disabilities have the same right as other members of our community to access community services and places. Priority 2 of *The Canberra Social Plan* expresses that “respecting diversity by protecting each other’s rights is essential if all Canberrans are to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.” Communities are richer when all members have the opportunity to participate. However, the social, natural and built environment can restrict participation of people with disabilities. Within this context, Disability ACT has a role to influence community attitudes and to encourage the adoption of policies and programs that promote inclusion.

## Aims

Disability ACT will support and promote whole of government and community initiatives which:

- foster positive community attitudes towards people with disabilities, including a recognition of their right to self determination;
- minimise barriers and maximise opportunities for people with disabilities to access all aspects of the ACT community;
- promotes legislation in the ACT that is inclusive and promotes human rights of people with disabilities;
- influence mainstream policies so that they reflect the perspectives of people with disabilities; and
- adopt and promote inclusive workplace policies and practices resulting in increased participation in the workforce.

Objectives	Actions 2002-2004	Priorities for 2005-2008
1.1 Positive community attitudes recognise the rights of people with disabilities to full participation, self determination and their capacity to contribute to the community	Partnered in the Inaugural ACT Government Inclusion Awards  Sponsored initiation of 3 inclusion projects	Implement a community inclusion program  Engage with business, arts and media to raise the profile of people with disabilities in the ACT community  Co-host biennial ACT Government Inclusion Award and sponsor annual activities for the International Day of People with Disabilities  Develop and implement community based disability awareness training package
1.2 People with disabilities are able to participate fully in all aspects of community life	Partnered with the ACT Disability Advisory Council to complete and launch the <i>Access to Government Framework</i>  Funded innovative projects on adaptable and accessible housing design; improving IT access and skills; and community capacity building  Developed access policy guidelines  Established Access City Hotline  Extended Taxi Subsidy Scheme to include under 16 year olds	Monitor government agencies' progress against 'Access to Government Audits' (ATGA)  Implement recommendations from ATGA within the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)  Evaluate effectiveness of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme in improving access to affordable transport  Develop mechanism for identifying and reporting accessibility issues associated with public places and transport
1.3 People with disabilities are able to participate in the workforce to their full potential	Partnered with Chief Minister's Department (CMD) in the <i>Disability Employment Framework</i> for government	Work with CMD to implement <i>Disability Employment Framework</i>  Improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the DHCS
1.4 A disability perspective is integrated into all legislation and policy	Introduced broad community representation into policy development  Consulted with the ACT community about <i>Future Directions</i>	Identify and implement strategies that reduce barriers to full participation in governance arrangements  Further develop and promote opportunities for people affected by disability to engage with whole of government on policy matters that affect their lives
1.5 The rights of people with disabilities are respected	Completed Review of Statutory Oversight and Advocacy Bodies  Advised government on the role, jurisdiction and powers of a Disability and Community Services Commissioner	Continue to support active participation of community members in the development and review of legislation and policy  Implement policies and provide services that are consistent with the <i>ACT Human Rights Act 2004</i> and the <i>Discrimination Act 1991</i>  Work with other government agencies to promote the rights of people with disability