

## Improve planning and use of available funding to meet the needs of people requiring ongoing support

3.5% of the ACT population under the age of 65 require some form of specific ongoing support for needs associated with their disability. Within this group, Disability ACT prioritises funding towards those people who rely on Disability ACT funded services as their primary source of disability support. Increasingly people with disabilities who have ongoing needs are living in the community with their families being the main source of support. The demand for specialist disability services continues to grow as the disability population increases and begins to age.

This strategic direction addresses the need for appropriate, gender sensitive specialist disability support to be provided in the community in a way that is flexible and responsive to individuals and families, and that supports people with disabilities and families to plan and achieve their goals. It also seeks to provide a strategic approach to the determination and allocation of available funding to respond equitably to unmet demand, growth in demand and cost increases.

In addition to providing a framework to better meet the needs of people requiring ongoing support throughout their lives, this strategic direction specifically addresses provision of services and supports to individuals, their families and carers at key transition times of their lives.

Planning and funding will also be improved for groups of people for whom service access is particularly difficult and specific service responses are required, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities; and
- people with high and complex needs.

## Aims

Disability ACT will target the planning and use of available funding to activities that:

- minimise the effects of a disability and maximise independence of people with disabilities;
- ensure that timely and appropriate supports are available at all stages of the life of a person with a disability;
- improve access to appropriate supports for people with high and complex needs; and
- improve access to culturally appropriate supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities.

In addition to the strategies outlines here, Strategies 1 and 2 address issues of inclusion, information, referral and community support for these groups.

Objectives	Actions 2002-2004	Priorities for 2005-2008
3.1 Individuals and their families are supported to plan for their future and develop sustainable pathways to realise their goals and aspirations	Funded community partnership projects to strengthen the capacity of individuals and their families to plan and manage services and supports  Piloted a co-ordination service for people accessing government-provided disability support services	Foster and fund events in the ACT that demonstrate innovation best practice  Develop and establish a range of local, accessible networks and services to assist in the planning of support strategies
3.2 A range of support models is available to meet the different requirements of individuals, their families and carers, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	Increased budget allocation to address unmet needs  Evaluated current funding mechanisms for the allocation and monitoring of Individual Support Packages (ISP)  Increased funding for development of additional disability accommodation  Development by Housing and Tenancy Working Group of 5 key principles and a vision for housing and tenancy  Funded innovation project to explore development of a family governed service option  Restructured Disability ACT's Individual Support Services to strengthen delivery of person-centred services and supports	Develop and pilot a range of flexible support models that provide an individualised approach to service and are least intrusive  Work with government and non-government specialist disability providers to develop proactive transition programs that allow people to have more control over their services and supports  Work in partnership with government and non-government working groups to develop local co-ordination services that best fit the ACT environment  Implement and monitor the impact of mechanisms for improved development and management of Individual Support Packages (ISP)  Informed by the principles developed by the Housing and Tenancy Working Group, develop policy guidelines for housing and accommodation  Trial and consolidate a range of supported accommodation options
3.3 People with disabilities, their families and carers are provided with appropriate and timely support at important transitional stages of their lives	Established Therapy ACT, a single therapy service for children and adults  Funded services to assist people with disabilities to make transitions at various stages of their lives  Funded two family support projects  Funded Post School Options (PSO) program to assist young people to make the transition from their life as a student to a vocational or "life skills" activity  Funded research to assist youth to make the transition from centre-based care programs to community access programs  Funded the Mature Carers Program	Using current research and best practice develop supports and programs that target key transitional periods  Develop assessment strategies that inform the choice of age and stage appropriate support  Develop specific strategies for the engagement of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families with young Children</li> <li>• Youth and Young Adults</li> <li>• Older Adults with a disability</li> <li>• Mature Carers</li> </ul> in the planning and policy development of targeted and appropriate disability specific and cross-government programs and supports  Consult on and implement strategies to enhance social and economic participation of young people in the ACT
3.4 People with high and complex needs have appropriate support to enable them to live safely	Contributed to development and funding of Dual Disability Team  Allocated approximately \$3.5 million over the next four years to establish a specialist intensive care and treatment program in the ACT for young people who have an intellectual disability and a mental dysfunction.	In partnership with other government agencies investigate and establish appropriate accommodation and support options for young people with a dual disability who come to, or who are likely to come to, the attention of the courts  Review current service delivery arrangements for people with disabilities who have high and complex needs associated with their behaviour  Investigate and develop a range of pre-crisis management strategies and an emergency short-term response service  With other government agencies, further develop robust mechanisms for cross agency co-ordination
3.5 People with disabilities, their families and carers have access to services which recognise and are committed to the importance of cultural security <sup>4</sup>	Provided funding to respite service focussing on needs for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	Engage with the Indigenous community to ensure representation in policy and planning  Consult with the Indigenous community on needs and preferences  Develop and implement a cultural awareness program for ACT disability service providers

<sup>4</sup> Cultural security is a commitment to the legitimate cultural rights, values and expectations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It requires programs and services to provide equal quality and outcomes irrespective of cultural background. (Adapted from *Putting People First: The Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002 - 2005*)