



State Disability Strategy – Year Three Process Evaluation Report: Summary

Background

- ‘A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030’ (the Strategy) aims to ensure Western Australia achieves its vision where people with disability, and those who share their lives, are engaged and feel empowered to live as they choose in a community where everyone belongs.
- In 2023, three years after the Strategy launched, an independent ‘process evaluation’ of the Strategy was undertaken.
- The process evaluation was not to evaluate the outcome of the Strategy’s actions or supporting Action Plans. The process evaluation assessed how well the Strategy’s processes and methods are working to achieve the Strategy’s vision, including:
 - Its relevance over time;
 - The way it is being implemented; and
 - Whether people with disability feel it is making a difference in their lives.
- The process evaluation also considered the Strategy’s role and relevance in context of major global, national and sector events and reforms that have occurred since the Strategy was launched, including the COVID-19 health emergency and the releases of *Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-31*, the NDIS Review Report, and the Disability Royal Commission Final Report.

Consultation

Accessible consultation was integral to the evaluation. Many activities were undertaken with key stakeholders, including:

- A co-design workshop with the Oversight Sub-Committee of the Disability Services Commission Board;
- Targeted focus conversations with people with disability, who were referred to the consultation opportunity by Workpower and Developmental Disability WA;
- Interviews with key government and industry stakeholders; and
- Surveys with people with disability, government and disability sector organisations.

Findings

- After three years, the Strategy remained as relevant and critical to advancing the inclusion of people with disability in Western Australia as it did when it was launched in 2020.
- The Strategy provided consistency and certainty during volatility and crisis events. Noting the Strategy included early actions that were a direct response to the Covid-

19 health emergency, the Strategy's framework provided a trusted means to elevate and respond to the issues, needs and priorities of people with disability with a whole-of-government focus.

- The process evaluation showed organisations are familiar with the Strategy and their highest priorities are:
 - The availability of suitable services and supports for people with disability;
 - Access and inclusion planning; and
 - Accessible infrastructure.
- People with disability, their parents, friends, carers and supporters were less familiar with the Strategy. Their top priorities were:
 - Suitability and availability of housing;
 - Disability, health and mental health services and support; and
 - Access to advocacy services and supports.
- Organisations were generally more positive than people with disability about the progress made on the Strategy over the past three years.

What can be improved?

- The process evaluation provided some insights to consider, including:
 - Undertaking a more comprehensive review and update of the third Action Plan and examine whether ongoing actions should continue into new Action Plans.
 - Future actions could have more focus on metrics and measures, such as setting targets or indicators and considering ways to measure the impact of actions on people with disability.
 - Future action plans could include a summary of progress to date on individual actions and of the implementation of the Strategy as a whole.
 - A regular repeat evaluation survey with organisations and people with disability could track changes over time.

Next Steps

The Department of Communities will:

- Continue to progress the insights of the process evaluation;
- Further promote the Strategy, specifically focusing on increasing awareness and understanding of the Strategy with people with disability, their parents, friends, carers and supporters; and
- Improve the measurability of the actions is being implemented through the third Action Plan.

As part of the ongoing monitoring of the Strategy, another process evaluation is due to be undertaken in the Strategy's sixth year (2026), followed by a summative evaluation in 2029.

For further information please contact StateDisabilityStrategy@communities.wa.gov.au