# Disability service plan 2020–21

Including COVID-19 recovery plan 2020–21



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# About disability service plans (DSP)

The *Disability Services Act 2006* (the Act) provides a foundation for promoting the rights of Queenslanders with disability, increasing their wellbeing and encouraging their participation in community life. This legislation requires all Queensland Government departments and agencies to develop and implement a DSP.

The purpose of DSPs is to ensure each agency has regard to the Act's human rights and service delivery principles, and the government's policies for people with disability. Disability service plans aim to improve access to services across government for people with disability, including more coordinated responses.

#### **Priorities**

All Abilities Queensland: Opportunities for all – State Disability Plan 2017–2020 (AAQ) sets a vision of "opportunities for all Queenslanders". To bring this vision to life, the plan has five priorities for action:

- 1. Communities for all
- 2. Lifelong learning
- 3. Employment
- 4. Everyday services
- 5. Leadership and participation.

The department has actions under four of these priority areas: Communities for all, Employment, Everyday services and Leadership and participation.

# Interim COVID-19 recovery plan 2020-21

The *Queensland Disability Recovery Action Plan* has been developed as an interim initiative under AAQ in response to COVID-19. The recovery plan will be led by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS).

The department will support DCDSS in delivering the actions under the recovery plan.

### Monitoring and reporting

The department will report annually on the implementation of its plan and contribute to a yearly progress report on the implementation of the AAQ.

Information from the annual progress reports will be shared across Australian state and territory governments as part of reporting on Queensland's contribution to national reporting on the implementation of the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020*.

# Human rights compatibility

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the *Human Rights Act 2019*, the department has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights.

For further information on the Human Rights Act 2019 see https://www.qhrc.qld.gov.au/.

# The Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation (the department) DISABILITY SERVICE PLAN ACTIONS (plan actions)

#### Communities for all

AAQ Years 1 to 3 (2017–20) Activities/success measure	Interim plan 2020–21 Activities/success measure	Overall measure (per the State Disability Plan)	Responsible area
Changing attitudes and breaking down barriers by	raising awareness and capability		
Action – Support national communication strateg	ies and activities to promote the National Disal	bility Strategy 2010-2020	
<ul> <li>The department will:</li> <li>ensure all communication strategies, where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the National Disability Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The department will continue to support national communication strategies and activities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Queensland promotes the principles and objectives of the National Disability Strategy, and participates and contributes to strategies, campaigns and other</li> </ul>	Whole-of- government (WoG) action (DCDSS lead)
<ul> <li>promote awareness campaigns and other activities, as advised by the Department of Social Services (Cwlth) and/or the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS).</li> </ul>		activities.	

# Action – Queensland Government Ministers act as champions with business, industry and organisational partners within their portfolio to raise awareness of disability and build partnerships and opportunities

- The department will ensure all communication strategies, where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and creation of opportunities by Queensland businesses, industries and partners.
- The department will continue to:
  - ensure all communication strategies align, where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the State Disability Plan
  - promote inclusiveness and creation of opportunities by Queensland businesses, industries and partners.
- Information pack provided to Ministers to support development of partnerships.
- WoG action (DCDSS lead)

AAQ Years 1 to 3 (2017–20) Activities/success measure

# Interim plan 2020–21 Activities/success measure

Overall measure (per the State Disability Plan)

Responsible area

Action – Investigate and develop options to provide disability awareness training to Queensland Government frontline staff and to incorporate disability awareness training into Queensland Government induction programs

- The department will:
  - publish and promote online inclusion and diversity awareness training (including a focus on disability awareness) to all departmental staff
  - investigate the incorporation of targeted inclusion and diversity awareness training (including a focus on disability awareness) into the department's onboarding procedures
  - continue to review and assess its disability awareness training framework and programs to ensure they remain relevant and fit-for-purpose.

- The department will continue to:
  - make disability awareness training available to all existing staff, and new staff upon commencement
  - review and assess disability awareness training to ensure they remain relevant and fit-for-purpose.
- Disability awareness training is made available to all existing staff, and new staff upon commencement.

WoG action (DCDSS lead)

Action – Encourage local government, non-government organisations and businesses to develop disability access and inclusion plans and use process to engage with people with disability in the design and delivery of services

- This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will ensure all communication strategies, where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.
- This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will continue to ensure all communication strategies, where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.
- Letters sent to all local governments and key non-government stakeholders.
- Information to support local governments, non- government organisations and businesses to develop plans provided on dedicated website.

WoG action (DCDSS lead)

AAQ Years 1 to 3 (2017–20) Activities/success measure	Interim plan 2020–21 Activities/success measure	Overall measure (per the State Disability Plan)	Responsible area
Accessible places and spaces			
, ,	oved by considering the needs of people with disa and where possible in choosing venues for Queens	ability when buildings and venues used by the Qu sland Government run events or meetings	eensland
<ul> <li>Supported by DCDSS, information is provided to enable departmental staff to choose accessible venues for events and meetings.</li> </ul>	■ The department will continue to provide information to enable departmental staff to choose accessible venues for events and meetings.	<ul> <li>Guidance provided to staff about how to choose an accessible venue for an event or meeting.</li> </ul>	WoG action (DCDSS lead)
Accessible information			
Action – Work towards ensuring all Queensland G	Government information in accessible and provid	led in multiple formats	
<ul> <li>The department representatives attend workshops / information sessions on web standards and on addressing accessibility (as led by DCDSS).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The department will continue to ensure its information is accessible, reviewed and updated.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All new key Queensland Government information/ materials are provided in accessible formats</li> <li>Existing content progressively reviewed &amp; updated.</li> </ul>	WoG action (DCDSS lead)
	d Government websites to meet contemporary Au ions are available for newly created time-based r	ustralian Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Wo media (i.e. pre-recorded video/audio)	ork continues t
<ul> <li>The department will:</li> <li>make available various communication platforms (e.g. video conferencing, Skype, Teams)</li> <li>comply with national government web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG 2.0)</li> <li>investigate and implement (as required) assistive services for staff with a disability.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The department will continue to:         <ul> <li>make available various communication platforms (e.g. video conferencing, Skype, Teams)</li> <li>comply with national government web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG 2.0)</li> <li>implement (as required) assistive services for staff with a disability.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All new key website content is accessible and complies with guidelines</li> <li>Increase in the number of government websites that meet guidelines.</li> </ul>	WoG action (Department o Housing and Public Works lead)

#### Action – Promote uptake of the Companion Card Program by businesses, including Queensland Government venues and events

- This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will be guided by the principles and objectives
- This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will continue to be guided by the principles and
- Number of businesses, offering the Companions Card Scheme.
- WoG action (DCDSS lead)

AAQ Years 1 to 3 (2017–20)	Interim plan 2020–21	Overall measure	Responsible
Activities/success measure	Activities/success measure	(per the State Disability Plan)	area
of the State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.	objectives of the State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.		
ction – Promote the guide, Inclusive Tourism: Ma	aking your business more accessibility and inclusi	ive	
Continued promotion of inclusive tourism guide to tourism industry; promote through social media.	<ul> <li>The department will continue to promote the inclusive tourism guide to the tourism industry.</li> </ul>	Widely distribute and use the guide through industry networks.	The department's action
action – Leverage Advance Queensland to support bilities in Queensland	t projects which enhance social outcomes and lea	ad improvements in products and services for peo	ople with all
The department will improve:	The department will continue to improve:	<ul><li>Funding of innovative research,</li></ul>	The
<ul> <li>access to Advance Queensland programs through ongoing enhancements to accessibility of program information, materials and forms</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>access to Advance Queensland programs with ongoing enhancements to accessibility of program information, materials and forms</li> </ul>	development or commercialisation projects which directly assist the disability services sector.	department's action
<ul> <li>the application experience through the expanded use of digital solutions with specific considerations for the needs of applicants with all abilities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the application experience through the expanded use of digital solutions with specific considerations for the needs of applicants with all abilities.</li> </ul>		
Respecting and promoting the rights of people wit	th disability and recognising diversity		
Action – Work towards ensuring all Queensland G conventions, consider the needs or interests of pe			
<ul> <li>All department business areas take into consideration:</li> <li>the needs of people with disability during development, monitoring and evaluation of legislation, policies, programs and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The department will continue to consider:</li> <li>the needs of people with disability during development, monitoring and evaluation of legislation, policies, programs and services</li> </ul>	New Queensland Government legislation, policies and programs demonstrate they have considered the needs of people with disability and carers in development and implementation.	WoG action (DCDSS lead)

services

AAQ Years 1 to 3 (2017–20) Activities/success measure	Interim plan 2020–21 Activities/success measure	Overall measure (per the State Disability Plan)	Responsible area
<ul> <li>the principles and objectives of the State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the principles and objectives of the State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.</li> </ul>		
Action – Government services and funded non-go	overnment services provide access to language, tr	anslating and communication services	
The department will continue to provide telephone translation or interpreting services for people with disability to access, on request.	The department will continue to provide telephone translation or interpreting services for people with disability to access, on request.	<ul> <li>Language, translating and communication services are available to Queenslanders with disability when accessing Queensland Government provided and funded services.</li> </ul>	WoG action (DCDSS lead)

# **Employment**

Years 1 to 3 (2017–20) Activities/success measure	Interim plan 2020–21 Activities/success measure	Overall measure (as per the State Disability Plan)	Responsible area
Leading the way – increasing opportunities in the	e Queensland public sector		
	ensland Government target, that by 2022, eight petention and career progression and development,		• •
<ul> <li>The department will</li> <li>solidify knowledge of anti-discrimination legislation and positive practice</li> <li>continue to uphold legislative obligations in relation to anti-discrimination and as an equal opportunity employer</li> <li>develop and promote participation in online unconscious bias training encouraging staff to consider impact</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The department will continue to:         <ul> <li>continue to uphold legislative obligations in relation to anti-discrimination and as an equal opportunity employer</li> <li>promote participation in online unconscious bias training encouraging staff to consider impact upon their policy decisions and approaches</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The proportion of people with disability employed in the Queensland Public Sector workforce increases towards eight per cent by 2022.	WoG action (DCDSS lead)

#### Responsible Years 1 to 3 (2017-20) Interim plan 2020-21 Overall measure area Activities/success measure Activities/success measure (as per the State Disability Plan) upon their policy decisions and continue to undertake reasonable approaches adjustments to meet individual needs as required and support through a incorporate employment of people with 'reasonable adjustment passport' a disability into work on an employer value proposition review recruitment practices to ensure accessibility for people with a disability. continue to undertake reasonable adjustments to meet individual needs as well as introduce a 'reasonable adjustment passport'.

#### Increasing employment opportunities for Queenslanders with disability

Action – Promote information, resources and examples of the benefits to businesses of employing people with disability, the assistance available, how to make recruitment and employment process more accessible to improve opportunities for people with a disability to participate in employment

- The department will:
  - ensure links are available to access
     DCDSS website and published materials
  - investigate production of appropriate departmental information and resources related to internal experiences of employing people with a disability
  - prepare and publish, as appropriate, departmentally specific information and resources.

- The department will continue to:
  - ensure links are available to access
     DCDSS website and published materials
  - prepare and publish, as appropriate, departmentally specific information and resources.
- Information, resources and good practice case studies uploaded to the dedicated website.
- WoG action (DCDSS lead

# Everyday services

Years 1 to 3 (2017–20)	Interim plan 2020–21	Overall measure	Responsible
Activities/success measure	Activities/success measure	(as per the State Disability Plan)	area
Housing			
Action – Include additional guidance in Economic dwellings in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) a	Development Queensland (EDQ) guidelines for acount in PDAs where EDQ is the developer.	ccessible housing to promote liveable housing des	sign in new
<ul> <li>Guideline published and reviewed as necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finalise the review of the EDQ guidelines. It is intended that the revised guidelines will refer to the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Incorporate accessible housing design in new dwellings in PDAs.</li> </ul>	The department's action
Disability and community supports			
Action – Work with the National Disability Insura	nce Agency to provide a smooth transition to the	NDIS	
This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will ensure all communication strategies, where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the National Disability Strategy and State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.	■ This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will continue to ensure all communication strategies, where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the National Disability Strategy and State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.	<ul> <li>All existing eligible clients transition and access services through the NDIS by 30 June 2019.</li> </ul>	WoG action (DCDSS lead)

#### Leadership and participation

AAQ Years 1 to 3 (2017–20) Activities/success measure Interim plan 2020–21
Activities/success measure

Overall measure (as per the State Disability Plan)

Responsible area

Inclusion in consultation, civic participation and decision-making and supporting leadership development

Action – Consultation and engagement processes are offered in a range of ways, including the use of technology, which maximise the participation opportunities for people with disability their families and carers

- The department will:
  - make available various communication platforms (e.g. video conferencing, Skype, Teams)
  - comply with national government web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG 2.0)
  - investigate and implement (as required) assistive services for staff with a disability.

- The department will continue to:
  - make available various communication platforms (e.g. video conferencing, Skype, Teams)
  - comply with national government web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG 2.0)
  - implement (as required) assistive services for staff with a disability.

- Increased participation of people with disability consultation
- Options for engagement promoted.

WoG action (DCDSS lead)

- Action Queensland Government agencies consult with people with disability when either developing a Disability Service Plan or implementing Disability Service Plan actions
- The department will ensure all communication strategies (including consultation activities), where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the National Disability Strategy and State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.
- The department will continue to ensure all communication strategies (including consultation activities), where relevant, align to the principles and objectives of the National Disability Strategy and State Disability Plan to promote inclusiveness and access.
- Queensland Government's Disability Service Plans 2017–2020 include details of consultation with people with a disability or details of consultation with people with a disability, is reflected in progress reporting.

WoG action (DCDSS lead)

	AAQ Years 1 to 3 (2017–20) Activities/success measure		Interim plan 2020–21 Activities/success measure		Overall measure (as per the State Disability Plan)	Responsible area
Act	ion – Existing leadership programs are acces	sible	e and inclusive of Queenslanders with disability	,		
•	The department will ensure all internally delivered leadership development programs are accessible in several formats (e.g. videos produced with captioning; use of interpreters where appropriate; able to be undertaken online; etc.) and able to be targeted to meet circumstances of participants.	•	The department will continue to ensure all internally delivered leadership development programs are accessible in several formats (e.g. videos produced with captioning; use of interpreters where appropriate; able to be undertaken online; etc.) and able to be targeted to meet circumstances of participants.		Application and assessment processes for Queensland Government leadership programs are accessible Participate demographics for Queensland Government leadership programs are representative of the community.	WoG action (DCDSS lead
Act	ion — Promote inclusion of people with a disab	ility	on state government boards, steering committees	ar	nd advisory bodies to foster 'change from within'	
•	The department will continue to uphold the principles of anti-discrimination and equal opportunity to promote inclusion of people with a disability on all agency boards, steering	•	The department will continue to uphold the principles of anti-discrimination and equal opportunity to promote inclusion of people with a disability on all agency boards, steering	•	Application and appointment processes for Queensland Government boards, steering committees and advisory bodies are accessible to Queenslanders with disability.	WoG action (DCDSS lead

committees and advisory bodies. This includes,

treatment of individuals based on their merits

but is not limited to, the management and

throughout the selection, duration and

completion of their appointment.

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treatment of individuals based on their merits

throughout the selection, duration and

completion of their appointment.

# Queensland Government's COVID-19 Disability Recovery Action Plan 2020-21

DCDSS activities DSDTI activities Due date Status

#### High quality engagement and communication

Action – Use expert advisors and Ministerial Councils to confirm and prioritise areas for action on systemic issues and modifiable risks during active COVID-19, and also to inform the recovery phase

- Gather evidence on the economic impacts of COVID-19 on People with a Disability (PwD):
  - employment/unemployment rates (change compared to general population) and potential for re-employment
  - any disproportionate impact of disrupted education on children with disability and any special needs now required to help get back on-track
  - cost of living impacts particular to PwD during COVID-19 and financial support required.

This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of this action.

(DCDSS lead)

Action – Work with disability experts to develop communication and resources tailored to the needs of people with disability during the active and recovery phases of COVID-19

- Translate Commonwealth and Queensland roadmaps to practical guidance on how and when restrictions will be lifted.
- Generate communication campaign to encourage PwD to safely re-engage with community and regular activities.
- Work with Queensland Government agencies on any interim COVID-19 specific updates required to their DSPs.
- The department has updated its DSP (this plan) to incorporate any COVID-19 updates.
- The department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of the remainder of this action.

Commenced Underway and ongoing (DCDSS lead)

Identify opportunities for reshaping service arrangements and supporting providers

Action – Identify actions to assist sector to respond to easing of the Public Health Directions (PHD) and assess the client and community impacts

DCDSS activities		DSDTI activities	Due date	Status
<ul> <li>Translate and prepare guidance for the disability sector on both the timing and implication for service delivery of restrictions being eased under the PHDs.</li> </ul>	•	The department will take learnings from the disability sector of successful changes made to modes of service delivery to be incorporated into BCPs.	Commenced and ongoing	Underway (DCDSS lead)
<ul> <li>Support the Disability Sector to develop COVID-Safe Plan/s.</li> <li>Capture learnings from the disability sector of successful changes made to modes of service delivery during COVID-19, for promotion to the sector and inclusion in business continuity plans (BCP).</li> </ul>	•	The department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of the remainder of this action.		
Action – Engage disability peaks to deliver tailored new COVID-1 service providers	.9 re	lated programs, resources and services to help support the Dis	ability Sector, inc	cluding NDIS
<ul> <li>Engage disability peak and representative bodies to translate DCDSS messaging about COVID-19 recovery into accessible formats and distribute – including some guidance on what a COVID-Safe Plan should include for services broadly.</li> </ul>	•	This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of this action.	Commenced and ongoing	Underway (DCDSS lead)
Action – Advocate to the Commonwealth for support programs t	tailo	red to identified and anticipated needs in the Queensland sect	or	
<ul> <li>Capture, prepare supporting evidence and promote the recovery needs of the Queensland Disability Sector to the Commonwealth, incorporating analysis of regional need and service type</li> <li>Promote the intention and benefits of the Commonwealth NDIS Workforce Strategy to the Queensland Disability Sector.</li> </ul>	•	This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of this action.	July 2020	Underway (DCDSS lead)
Action – Promote opportunities for the sector to access financial	l sup	port programs provided by governments		
<ul> <li>Research Commonwealth and Queensland subsidies and supports available to the Disability Sector and assemble easy to understand information.</li> <li>Promote the available subsidies to the Queensland Disability Sector through all available channels.</li> </ul>	•	This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of this action.	Commenced and ongoing	Underway (DCDSS lead)

DCDSS activities	DSDTI activities	Due date	Status
Ongoing monitoring of service capacity and value			
Action – Monitor and quantify any NDIS savings from COVID-19	underutilisation		
<ul> <li>Analyse available data and model future savings for the Commonwealth resulting from COVID-19.</li> </ul>	This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of this action.		Underway (DCDSS lead)
Action – Advocate for reinvestment of any underutilised NDIS fu	ınds during COVID-19 in the Queensland sector		
<ul> <li>Develop advocacy plan identifying available forums and approaches for pursuing the investment of any Commonwealth NDIS savings in the Queensland Disability Sector and for the benefit of PwD.</li> </ul>	This is outside of the scope of the department. However, the department will contribute to DCDSS activities as required to support delivery of this action.	July 2020	Underway (DCDSS lead)

Version 1 last updated 1/07/2020

