
THE NATIONAL DISABILITY RESEARCH AGENDA

Where are we and what's next?



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Update on the NDRA process and outcome



Phase 1: Research Mapping

We mapped the last 10 years of disability research in Australia and found over 1200 publications. Disability research in Australia over the last 10 years mainly focussed on: the lives of people with disability; families and unpaid carers; disability service providers; health and education. Notable gaps included the experience of disability in diverse groups (i.e. First Nations, LGBTQI+ and rural communities) and research focussed on housing, ageing, technology, violence, discrimination and human rights. For more details [read the full or Easy English mapping reports here](#)

Phase 2: Consultation

We used what we learned from phase 1 to inform the surveys, interviews and focus groups that you and almost 2,000 others participated in. An overarching theme from the consultations was the importance of involvement of people with disability in research. Specific topic areas for future research of highest priority were human rights, disability supports, inclusion, health,



the NDIS and disability across the lifespan including transitions. Equal rights, abuse and mental health were the top priorities for First Nations People. Many people did use research, for those that did not, it was because they don't know how to, can't afford to, or otherwise can't access research. To find out more, [read the full Survey report and Consultation report](#)

Phase 3

What should guide the research agenda the most?

Using what we learned from the consultation, we developed 25 statements about important research topics. 52 people (people with disability, family members, service providers, advocacy organisations, academics and policy makers) sorted the statements to tell us which should guide the research agenda the most. Four common viewpoints were found that tell us we need research about:

- How to design and deliver integrated and equitable services.
- The complex and intersecting needs of people experiencing multiple disadvantages such as First Nations people with disability.
- The impact of systems, e.g., the NDIS, on people with disability and society more broadly.
- How to design services to support the mental health and well-being of people with disability.

These, in addition to the importance of including people with disability as partners in research, are the basis for the **preliminary research agenda**. You can [read the full report here](#). To finalise the agenda, the NDRP need more input. The preliminary agenda will be made available for feedback to be refined in early 2023. [Visit the NDRP website here to sign up to participate in the final consultation](#).

Where to now for us?

Healthy Trajectories is a new disability research hub, established in 2021 by Professor Christine Imms at the Melbourne Children's Campus (Royal Children's Hospital). Healthy Trajectories is informed by the NDRA. The research programs of Healthy Trajectories are aligned with the viewpoints of the NDRA and the Australian Disability Strategy. We want to make sure we are working with and directed by the priorities of the disability community.



Stay Involved!

We would love to stay connected with you as we move into this next phase of bringing the NDRA to life. Involvement of lived experience consumer partners and colleagues is crucial to our work. Please **follow us on social media** or **subscribe to our newsletter** to find out all the ways to stay involved!

