

About the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*

An overview of the new law

Easy Read version



This is fact sheet 1 of 5.

Fact sheet 1

Fact sheet 2

Fact sheet 3

Fact sheet

Fact sheet 5

How to use this document



This document has been written by the NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services.

In this document, the word 'we' means the government.



This information is written in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



Some words are written in **green**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 18.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at www.facs.nsw.gov.au/dia



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this document?

What is the <i>Disability Inclusion Act 2014</i> ?	4
What does the new law say?	6
Part 1 – Making sure people are included	9
Part 2 – Disability planning	11
Part 3 – The Disability Council NSW	13
Part 4 – Standards	14
Part 5 – Supports and services	15
Protecting people in group homes and respite services	17
Word list	18
Where to get more information	20

What is the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*?



The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* is a new law for people with disability in NSW.



Inclusion is about making sure that people with disability can take part in our community.

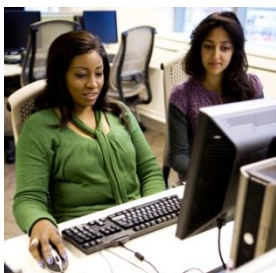
This means that you can:



- do the things you want to do



- get into buildings and get around



- get a job or study if that's right for you



- use services



- get the information you need



- feel safe



- feel included.



In NSW, we used to have a law called the *Disability Services Act 1993*.

The old law has now been replaced by the new law.



The new *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* started on 3 December 2014.

What does the new law say?



The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* says that people with disability must be treated well and be included in our community.

The new law also says that the NSW Government must make our community **accessible** to everyone.

Accessible means that you can do things like:

- use services
- get the information you need
- get into and get around buildings.



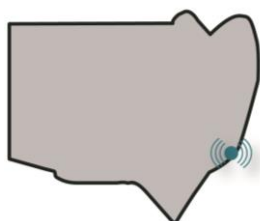
The new law says that people with disability should be treated well.



The new law also explains how NSW will change over to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



The NDIS is a new way of offering support to people with disability in Australia.



The NDIS has started in some parts of NSW already, including Newcastle.



It will be in all parts of NSW in 2018.

The new law explains how the NSW Government will:

- keep managing disability support and **funding** now
- stop managing disability support and funding once everyone starts using the NDIS.



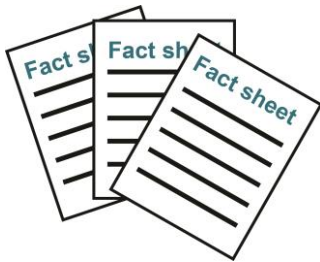
Funding is the money that the government provides for disability services and support.

5



The new law is divided up into 5 parts.

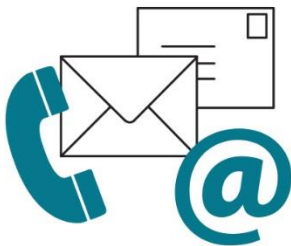
We explain each of these parts on the following pages.



There are also other fact sheets about some of these topics if you'd like more information.



You can find these fact sheets on our website.



Or, you can ask us for them. Our contact details are on page 20.

Part 1 — Making sure people are included



Many of the ideas in the new law are based on the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (UN Convention).

The United Nations is a group of leaders from many countries around the world.

They wrote a document that explains how people with disability should be treated fairly.

The UN Convention says that people with disability:



- have rights



- can be independent



- can take part in the community



- can have choice and control in their lives



- can be protected if necessary.

The new law also says that different groups of people with disability might need different support.

These groups include:



- people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds



- people who are from different cultures and who speak different languages



- women



- children.

Part 2 – Disability planning



The new law explains what must be done to make sure people with disability are included in our community.

This is called disability planning.



The new law says that the NSW Government must now write a State Disability Inclusion Plan.



This is a document that explains how the whole of the NSW government will work towards making NSW better for people with disability.



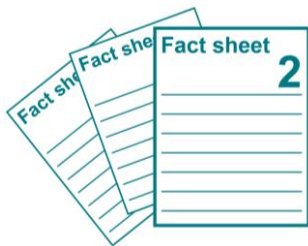
The new law also says that all the different parts of the government and all local councils must have a Disability Inclusion Action Plan.



This is a document that explains what each of these places will do to put their plans into action.



People with disability must be allowed to have a say about what is in these plans.



If you'd like more information about this, take a look at fact sheet 2 about Disability Planning.

Part 3 – The Disability Council NSW



The Disability Council of NSW is a group of people who give advice to the NSW Government about services for people with disability.



The new law says that the Disability Council NSW will do more things, like offering advice to the NSW Government about disability planning.

Part 4 – Standards



All of the services you receive must be of good quality.



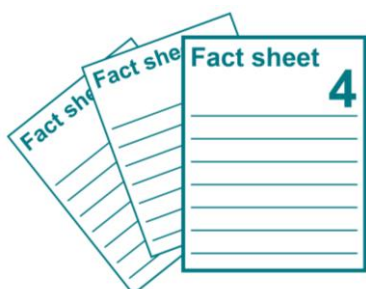
The new law explains that **disability service providers** must follow the rules for providing services to people with disability.



Disability service providers are organisations that receive funding from the NSW government to provide services or support to people with disability.



These rules are called the Disability Service Standards.



If you'd like to know more about this, you can read our fact sheet about the rules for employing staff. This is fact sheet 4.

Part 5 – Supports and services



The new law explains how people will receive funding for their disability services.



Under the new law, people will have more choice over:

- the type of funding they receive
- the way they receive funding.



The new law also explains how funding from the NSW government can be stopped once a person or disability service provider is funded by the NDIS.



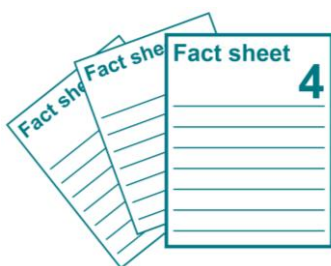
There will be new rules about checking disability service provider staff, **volunteers** and **board members** before they start working.



Volunteers are people who work without getting paid because they want to help.



Board members are the senior people in the organisation who are making big decisions.



If you'd like more information about this, take a look at fact sheet 4 about employing staff.

Protecting people in group homes and respite services



The new law is designed to help people who live in group homes or attend respite services be safe.

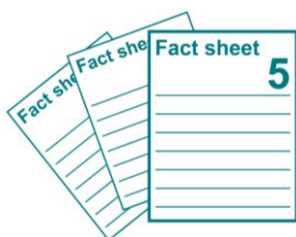


If you live in a group home or attend a respite service and someone has treated you badly, then someone must tell the boss of that service what happened.



The boss must then tell the **Ombudsman**.

The Ombudsman is a person who looks into serious problems in disability services.



There is a fact sheet about reporting serious problems if you'd like more information. This is factsheet 5 on our website.

Word list



Accessible

Accessible means that you can do things like:

- use services
- get the information you need
- get into buildings.



Board members

The senior people in the organisation who are making big decisions.



Disability service provider

An organisation that gets funding from the NSW government to provide services or support to people with disability.



Funding

Money that the government provides for disability services and support.



Inclusion

Making sure that everyone is included in our community, such as being able to get around and do the things you want to do.

Ombudsman

The Ombudsman is a person who you can phone or write to if you are having serious problems.



United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Convention)

This is a document that explains the rights of people with disability. It applies around the world.



Volunteers

People who work without getting paid because they want to help.

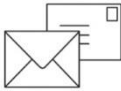
Where to get more information



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www.facs.nsw.gov.au/dia



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