

# *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – disability planning*

The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (the Act) and the *Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014* (the Regulation) commenced on 3 December 2014.

Part 2 of the Act requires the NSW Government to develop a four-year State Disability Inclusion Plan to guide how all government organisations work towards inclusion. At the next level, it requires NSW Government departments, local councils and other public authorities (set out in the Regulation), to develop and implement Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

## **What is the State Disability Inclusion Plan?**

The State Disability Inclusion Plan sets out whole-of-government goals to support the inclusion of people with disability in the community, and improve their access to mainstream services and community facilities in NSW.

The State Disability Inclusion Plan also requires government departments to work together, and with local councils and other public authorities, to provide better supports and services to people with disability within local communities through Disability Action Inclusion Plans.

The State Disability Inclusion Plan is being prepared by Family and Community Services (FACS) in consultation with people with disability, and will be in place by 1 July 2015. The plan will be for four years with a review undertaken by the Minister for Disability Services before the end of the four years. The outcome of the review will be reported to NSW Parliament.

## **What is a Disability Inclusion Action Plan?**

A Disability Inclusion Action Plan (action plan) must be developed by public authorities – these include NSW Government departments, local councils and public authorities set out in the Regulation.

These plans contain actions to be put in place so that people with disability can participate fully in the local community and can access supports and services provided by the public authority.

An action plan must address:

- how the *Disability Inclusion Act's* principles will be addressed;
- strategies to support people with disability;
- how people with disability were consulted; and
- how the plan supports the State Disability Inclusion Plan.

[www.facs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au)

This is fact sheet 2 of 5 on the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*.

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Local councils must complete their first action plan by 1 July 2017, which is in line with other local council planning processes. Government departments and other public authorities must complete their first action plan by 1 December 2015.

Action plans must be made available to the public and must be reviewed, in consultation with people with disability, every four years. The progress and implementation of the plan must be reported on annually in the public authority's annual report. The Minister for Disability Services must also be informed of each action plan's progress annually. This will then be used to report to NSW Parliament on the implementation of the State Disability Inclusion Plan including the Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

### Consultation with people with disability

The Act requires that the State Disability Inclusion Plan and all Disability Inclusion Action Plans are developed in consultation with people with disability. This will help to ensure plans are meaningful, relevant, practical and reflective of the needs of people with disability.

### Consultation with the Disability Council NSW

The Disability Council NSW has an expanded role, which includes advising the NSW Government on the State Disability Inclusion Plan and Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

The Act allows a public authority to consult with the Disability Council NSW in the preparation of its Disability Inclusion Action Plan. It also requires that a copy of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan be given to the Disability Council NSW.

### Guidelines and supporting tools to be developed

The NSW Government is developing guidelines and supporting tools in relation to Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

Local councils, government departments and other public authorities are required to use these guidelines when preparing their plans.

**This fact sheet is available in a range of other languages and in an Easy Read format. To access these resources and find out more about the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/dia](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/dia), email [disabilityinclusionact@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:disabilityinclusionact@facs.nsw.gov.au), or call 1800 446 470. If you would like to speak to us through an interpreter, call TIS on 131 450.**

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