



National Disability
Research Partnership

NDRP Research Agenda

**Guiding the National Disability Research
Partnership's research investment**

April 2024

ndrp.org.au info@ndrp.org.au



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About the NDRP

The National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP) funds research led by and with people with disability. Its purpose is to build a national disability research program in Australia that generates evidence for successful policy and practice.

The NDRP will achieve this by:

- funding research that is informed by the NDRP Research Agenda
- making sure research is done by and with people with disability
- strengthening disability research capacity, and
- sharing research findings to improve policy and practice.

NDRP Principles

The NDRP seeks to:



Advance high-quality research that informs disability policy and practice in Australia

- Promote collaborative research across Australia
- Implement the NDRP Research Agenda
- Build an evidence base that informs Australian disability policy and practice



Value the knowledge of people with disability in research

- Respect different sources and forms of knowledge and research
- Support research that gives people with disability real decision-making power
- Support research that involves a wide range of people with disability, including those who are often left out or are not well represented in research
- Make sure people with disability are paid properly for their research work



Strengthen disability research capacity

- Build an active and connected community of disability researchers
- Build career pathways for researchers with disability
- Strengthen Australia's capacity to conduct disability research
- Build capacity in the community to develop and use evidence produced by research



Share research findings widely in useful and accessible ways

- Make information available in accessible and useful ways
- Share what we learn with the disability and wider community
- Use a range of new and traditional ways to share research findings.



Research Agenda

This is the NDRP Research Agenda. This agenda will guide our research over the next 10 or more years. It will help to make sure that disability research in Australia is well-supported so that we better understand the matters important to people with disability and the solutions that are needed, and provides evidence to help shape the policies and practices that result in better life outcomes for people with disability.

The NDRP Research Agenda was developed in collaboration with people with disability, their representative organisations and allies, over two years from 2021-2023.

A rights-based approach

People who contributed recognised that research is fundamental to upholding the rights and improving outcomes for people with disability. The NDRP Research Agenda will help in implementing Australia's Disability Strategy by contributing an evidence base and thus furthering Australia's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to the NDRP Working Party for guiding the establishment of the NDRP, with special thanks to the Research Subcommittee for writing this research agenda: Professor Gwynnyth Llewellyn, University of Sydney; Professor Anne Kavanagh, University of Melbourne; Professor Helen Dickinson, University of New South Wales; Professor Jackie Leach Scully, University of New South Wales; and Professor Elizabeth Kendall, Griffith University. Read more here: [NDRP Working Party](#).





How you can use the NDRP Research Agenda

People with disability and representative organisations

- Use the NDRP Research Agenda to support your advocacy work
- Partner with researchers to plan projects that, by working together, address the NDRP research priorities.

Researchers and research organisations

- Consider the NDRP research priorities, which were identified by people with disability, when shaping your next project.
- Apply for NDRP funding, focusing on inclusive research and leadership roles for people with disability. Funding rounds are expecting to open in mid-late 2024.
- Create PhD scholarship and early-career fellowship opportunities for researchers with disability and align these with NDRP research priorities.

Policymakers and governments

- Embed the NDRP research priorities into disability-specific and mainstream funding strategies and research programs.
- Partner with researchers and disability representative organisations to plan projects that, by working together, address the NDRP research priorities.

Research funders

- Invest in targeted research programs that align with the priorities in the NDRP Research Agenda.
- Develop funding criteria for research about people with disability that require people with disability to be actively involved as research partners.



A living document

The NDRP Research Agenda is a living document. It will be responsive to the changing priorities of the disability community. As new information becomes available, and as areas of priority and focus change for people with disability, or are completed, the Research Agenda will be updated as needed.

For example, it will be updated when findings of significant reviews are known, such as:

- from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability in September 2023
- from the Review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in December 2023.

The Research Agenda should also be responsive to other government strategies such as Gender Equality and Closing the Gap.

While the NDRP Research Agenda will be responsive to the outcomes of processes such as the Royal Commission or NDIS Review, it will not be the only (or major) vehicle for new research identified through these processes. However, government may seek to commission the NDRP to undertake research recommended by the Royal Commission and the NDIS Review, in addition to the funding designated to deliver the NDRP Research Agenda.



The NDRP Research Agenda will be responsive to the changing priorities of the disability community.

Listening to the disability community

The NDRP Research Agenda was developed in collaboration with people with disability and their representative organisations over two years from 2021-2023. People who contributed recognised that research is fundamental to providing evidence that will enable Australia to uphold the rights and improving outcomes for people with disability. The NDRP Research Agenda will provide knowledge that will help in implementing Australia's Disability Strategy and Australia's commitment to the UNCRPD.

The NDRP Research Agenda sets out 12 research areas and accompanying topics presented as questions. These were topics that people with disability and their representative organisations said were important and needed research to help improve outcomes for people with disability in Australia. But we know priorities will change over time and in response to changing circumstances. The impacts of COVID-19, natural disasters and changes in the economy are just some examples of things that will cause the NDRP to refocus and reprioritise.



So, while this Research Agenda sets a framework for the areas and topics to be considered for research, people with disability and their representative organisations and other stakeholders can bring forward new topics and issues of concern to the NDRP in the future and in response to any emergencies or unanticipated changes.

See the Appendix for more detail on how the Research Agenda was developed.

Context for the NDRP Research Agenda

Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) addresses seven outcome areas complemented by the ADS Outcomes Framework. The outcomes framework includes indicators, measures and the data required to report on system and population outcomes for each outcome and its associated policy priority indicators. There is also an ADS Data Improvement Plan to develop new or expand current data sources to assist with ADS monitoring and reporting over the life of the Strategy.

The NDRP Research Agenda complements the ADS Outcomes Framework but extends further to include topics of direct concern in more areas that are regarded by people with disability as priorities for research.

There are synergies with the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA) which can provide data for some of the questions raised in the research topics. For many topics, however, new data will need to be generated as currently there are none available, so there will need to be ongoing close alignment between NDRP and the NDDA. The NDRP will also help the NDDA identify where research and data capacity is needed to leverage the full benefits of the Asset.

There should also be opportunities to feed back to data custodians about ways to improve data quality and its potential to create even deeper insights. This is the approach adopted by the Australian Tax Office since it made its data available for research.



Underpinning themes of the NDRP Research Agenda

Five themes were identified to underpin the NDRP Research Agenda. They relate to fundamental challenges that are routinely experienced in the everyday lives of people with disability. They are relevant to all 12 research areas and should be considered in the selection process for all funding proposals.

These five themes complement the Guiding Principles of the NDRP. They are:



Uphold the rights of people with disability.



Focus on safety.



Address ableism and improve attitudes.



Understand intersectionality.



Apply a gendered lens.



Description of our underpinning themes



Uphold the rights of people with disability: The rights of people with disability are protected under the UNCRPD, the Disability Discrimination Act and other human rights frameworks. All areas of research should take account of the UNCRPD, and other relevant human rights frameworks, particularly in recognising inequalities and the need for a specific focus on improving equity and reducing discrimination that is experienced by specific population groups. The findings of research under the NDRP should help bring Australia closer to fulfilling its human rights obligations.



Focus on safety: People with disability have experienced significant violence, neglect, abuse, harm and discrimination. This includes a lack of cultural safety in the way they are treated or supported across all services and programs. Safety is relevant to each of the 12 research areas. The findings from research on safety under the NDRP should help recognise safe practices and identify ways for Australian policymakers and service systems to find policy and practice solutions that prevent, reduce and reverse this unacceptable situation.



Address ableism and improve attitudes: Ableism and devaluing attitudes of those in professional roles and in the broader community were described across all 12 research areas. Including an ableist lens in each research area would highlight the recurring and damaging nature of these experiences. The findings of research under the NDRP should take account of, and help identify, occurrences of ableism and how poor attitudes impact on the research topic/s being discussed.



Understand intersectionality: Intersectional discrimination and disadvantage disproportionately affect groups including First Nations people, people from diverse cultural backgrounds, from rural and remote communities, and people who are LGBTQI+. Research under the NDRP must recognise the complex ways in which intersectionality can affect the experiences of people with disability.



Apply a gendered lens: Too often the differently gendered experiences of men, women and non-binary people with disability are ignored. Including gender as a cross-cutting theme across the NDRP research areas will help emphasise how sex and gender affect daily life experiences for women, for men, and for non-binary people with disability.



Parameters on timing of research investment

The NDRP will be required to make decisions about priorities and timing of research investment. The following parameters should guide the NDRP in prioritising topics in the 12 research areas that would best suit investment in the immediate, medium or longer term.

An essential consideration is cross-fertilisation between the NDRP Research Agenda priorities and the knowledge mobilisation and strengthening capacity workplans to make the most of the overall NDRP investment. These considerations will need to ensure that research already underway is not duplicated, including research initiated to review existing evidence to guide changes in policy and practice.

These considerations will also need to take into account whether there is current research capacity to answer questions and identify where research capacity needs to be strengthened to enable high quality research. If the Research Agenda and capacity strengthening frameworks are not considered together, we risk not having the workforce to address emerging and long-term research priorities.

Immediate priorities

Immediate priorities should consider issues that are of current

pressing concern for people with disability, and for which there is not much research available. Consideration could also be given to the issues that disability representative organisations are currently working on and their capacity to engage with the NDRP on specific topics. In some topic areas there is already solid evidence. Where this is the case, consideration should also be given to focused and practical research that builds on this evidence to guide the changes needed to move policy and practice forward. These considerations would need to occur in tandem with decisions about NDRP investments for knowledge mobilisation and for strengthening capacity in disability research.

Medium term priorities

Medium term priorities for investment may also include those for which investing now is most likely to deliver impact within a four or five-year period. Consideration should be given to those research topics most urgent and highly valued by people with disability, accepting that these may change over time. Medium term priorities could also include those where policy change is required, allowing time for monitoring and evaluation of the impact of such policy change within the term of the Research Agenda.



For medium term priorities, consideration could be given to research topics that relate to or rely on other pieces of work that are already underway, for example within government inquiries or reviews. Another useful consideration for deciding on medium term priorities is whether major policy initiatives are being implemented or government priorities are planned, for example under the ADS.

Longer term priorities

For longer term priorities, investment in research topics is likely to be focused on achieving major systemic change or changes in governance such as likely benefits from an overarching government entity responsible for disability policy. Leveraging knowledge generated through research to achieve major systemic change requires forward investment in research and research capacity. This investment will ensure co-designed, programmatic, multidisciplinary, and longitudinal research can be undertaken to deliver a body of knowledge needed for systemic reform.

NDRP decisions about the timing of immediate research priorities and in the medium and longer term should also be informed by scanning the evidence and environment to determine the research investment most likely to yield policy relevant results. This would need to be done alongside scanning of the environment more broadly to balance NDRP investment across its three areas of responsibility: funding research, embedding knowledge mobilisation in all NDRP activities, and strengthening capacity in disability research in Australia.



Research areas

1. Upholding and promoting the rights of people with disability



2. Safety of people with disability



3. Health and wellbeing



4. Housing for people with disability



5. Inclusive and accessible communities



6. The National Disability Insurance Scheme



7. Personal and community support for people with disability



8. Community attitudes



9. Employment of people with disability



10. Education and learning for children with disability



11. Education and learning for adults with disability



12. The transition of young people with disability from education to employment



Research areas and topics

The research areas and questions below identify broad areas for investigation. The NDRP will prioritise research that progresses the knowledge needed for practical guidance on reforming government policy and the disability service system, to address the critical concerns people with disability have identified through the consultation.

1. Research about upholding and promoting the rights of people with disability

Topics include:

- What actions will improve Australia's performance in upholding the human rights of people with disability?
- What actions can be taken to enable people with disability to make decisions about their own lives?
- Which models of supported decision-making work best?
- How can the capacity for self-advocacy of people with disability be developed and supported?
- What needs to be done to eliminate the social and financial barriers preventing people with disability making complaints about breaches of their rights, including reproductive rights?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 3: Safety, rights and justice.

The rights of people with disability are promoted, upheld, and protected, and people with disability feel safe and enjoy equality before the law.



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2. Research about safety of people with disability

Topics include:

- What strategies, systems, and policies are most effective in preventing and responding to violence, abuse and neglect of people with disability, including family violence?
- What cultural and social factors perpetuate violence and abuse against people with disability and how can these be addressed?
- What must the family violence and disability service systems do to ensure people with disability are safe and feel safe in their homes?
- How can we best ensure that services are culturally appropriate and trauma informed?
- How can we better support young people with disability to develop their sexuality and enjoy positive relationships?
- What is needed to make public places and social spaces safe for people with disability?
- How can the online safety of people with disability be ensured?
- How can the experiences of people with disabilities be used to remove the barriers and discrimination in the justice system?



Cross referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 3: Safety, rights and justice.

The rights of people with disability are promoted, upheld and protected, and people with disability feel safe and enjoy equality before the law.





3. Research about health and wellbeing

Topics include:

- What works to improve the attitudes, knowledge and skills of healthcare providers and professionals and to change the quality of care they provide to people with disability?
- How can we better support people with disability to make decisions about their own health care, including end of life care?
- What can be learnt from the experiences of people with disability during COVID-19 for future health system reform for people with disability, including preventative health care?
- How can we overcome the social and financial barriers to accessing mainstream health services, including mental health services?
- What would enable people with disability to receive equitable health care, including migrants and refugees with disability?
- How can the interaction between the NDIS and the mental health system be improved?
- How could the services offered by mental health providers for people with disability be improved, especially for young people and for people with intellectual disability?
- What works to better support safety and inclusion for people with mental health disorders in medical settings?
- What needs to be done to prepare for the impact of climate change on the health and wellbeing of people with disability?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 6: Health and wellbeing.

People with disability attain the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives.



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4. Research about housing for people with disability

Topics include:

- What needs to be done to ensure people with disability have choice in their housing options, including where they live and who they live with?
- How can we overcome the barriers to affordable and accessible housing for people with disability, including in all government funded housing programs?
- How can we better provide supports to people with disability so they can live independently and participate fully in the community?
- How can housing options be funded to support choice for people with disability, including for people with mental health issues?
- What are the pathways into and out of homelessness for people with disability and how can homelessness be prevented?
- How can the knowledge of social housing staff about the needs of people with disability be improved?
- What supports are required to enable people with acquired disability to remain in their homes?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 2: Inclusive homes and communities.

People with disability live in inclusive, accessible and well-designed homes and communities.

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5. Research about accessible and inclusive communities

Topics include:

- How does inclusion of people with disability benefit the community?
- How is inclusion of people with disability shaped by where they live?
- How can the voices of people with disability be heard and included in implementing the changes needed to make communities accessible?
- What specific, distinctive barriers to participating in the community are faced by people with disability with different intersectional identities?
- How can we overcome the barriers to accessing online information, support and services faced by people with disability?
- What is needed to ensure accessibility of the built and natural environment for people with disability?
- How can we overcome the barriers to people with disability accessing recreational activities and events they enjoy in the community?
- What is needed to ensure people with disability can actively participate in community emergency preparedness and response?
- How can we ensure accessible transport systems for adults with disability?
- What are the transport needs of children with disability and how can they be addressed?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 2: Inclusive homes and communities.

People with disability live in inclusive, accessible and well-designed homes and communities.

6. Research about the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Topics include:

- What are examples of innovative service and supports that deliver better outcomes for people with disability and how can these be incorporated in the redesign of the NDIS?
- What are the social and economic costs and benefits of the NDIS for participants, families and society?
- How do we make sure everybody gets fair and equitable outcomes from the NDIS?
- What prevents people with psychosocial disability from accessing and remaining on the NDIS?
- What specific, distinctive barriers are faced by people with disability who are First Nations or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in accessing and managing NDIS supports?
- How could the NDIS and the health, education, employment and aged care systems be better integrated to support positive outcomes for people with disability?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 4: Personal and community support.

People with disability have access to a range of supports to assist them to live independently and engage in their communities.





7. Research about personal and community support for people with disability

Topics include:

- How do we design integrated service systems so people with disability do not ‘fall through the cracks’ such as between the disability, health and education systems?
- What works to support people with disability so they can access the services and supports they need in disability, health, education and justice?
- How can we better support parents, siblings, other family members and allies who support people with disability?
- How does having a family member with disability affect the finances of families, including carers, and how could families be better supported financially?
- How can services and supports adapt to changing circumstances across the life course, such as when young people with disability are developing their sexuality and relationships?
- How can we better provide supports, including technology, to people with disability, especially children and older Australians with disability?
- What works to mitigate the early life factors contributing to young people with disability entering the juvenile and criminal justice systems?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 4: Personal and community support.

People with disability have access to a range of supports to assist them to live independently and engage in their communities.



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8. Research about community attitudes

Questions include:

- What works to increase community knowledge about the rights of people with disability?
- What works to improve community attitudes towards people with disability?
- What causes fear of, or reluctance to engage with, people with disability in the wider community and how can this be addressed?
- What types of discrimination do people with invisible disability, mental health problems and/or intellectual disability experience and how can these be addressed?
- How can media representation of people with disability become more visible and positive?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 7: Community attitudes.

Community attitudes support equality, inclusion and participation in society for people with disability.



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9. Research about employment of people with disability

Topics include:

- How can we overcome barriers to employment for people with disability?
- What specific workplace changes would lead to people with disability being employed in jobs of their choice?
- What works to improve community and employer attitudes about employment of people with disability?
- What helps people with intellectual disability and people with psychosocial disability find and maintain employment?
- How can we overcome barriers that stop people with disability moving forward in their careers and into leadership positions?
- How can government employment programs for people with disability be improved to ensure better outcomes?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 1: Employment and financial security.

People with disability have economic security, enabling them to plan for the future and exercise choice and control over their lives.

10. Research about education and learning for children with disability

Topics include:

- What are the major barriers for students with disability in the education system and how can these be overcome?
- What could be done to make sure children with disability have equitable access to early childhood education and care?
- How do supports and reasonable adjustments for students with disability in school contribute to access, participation and educational outcomes?
- How do we identify which policies and practices best support school students with disability?
- How can teachers be better informed and supported to promote independence for students with disability in their personal relationships and sexuality?
- How can school and teacher assessment practices be modified so students with disability are not disadvantaged?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 5: Education and learning.

People with disability achieve their full potential through education and learning.



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11. Research about education and learning for adults with disability

Topics include:

- How could governments improve their policies and practices for supporting people with disability in adult and lifelong learning?
- How can we ensure the voices of students with disability better inform the post-school sector to be more responsive to their needs?
- What teaching practices in TAFEs and universities are most effective in supporting students with disability?



Cross-referenced with

ADS Outcome Area 5: Education and learning.

People with disability achieve their full potential through education and learning.

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12. Research about the transition of young people with disability from education to employment

Topics include:

- How can we overcome the challenges that young people face in entering the job market?
- How can we improve the effectiveness of school-based programs (e.g., vocational counsellors, internships) and post-school programs (e.g., employment services) in securing employment for young people with disability?
- How can young people with disability in specific living circumstances, such as out-of-home care, be better supported to get into work?
- What specific, distinctive barriers to transitioning from education to employment are faced by young people with disability with different intersectional identities and how can these be addressed?



Cross referenced with

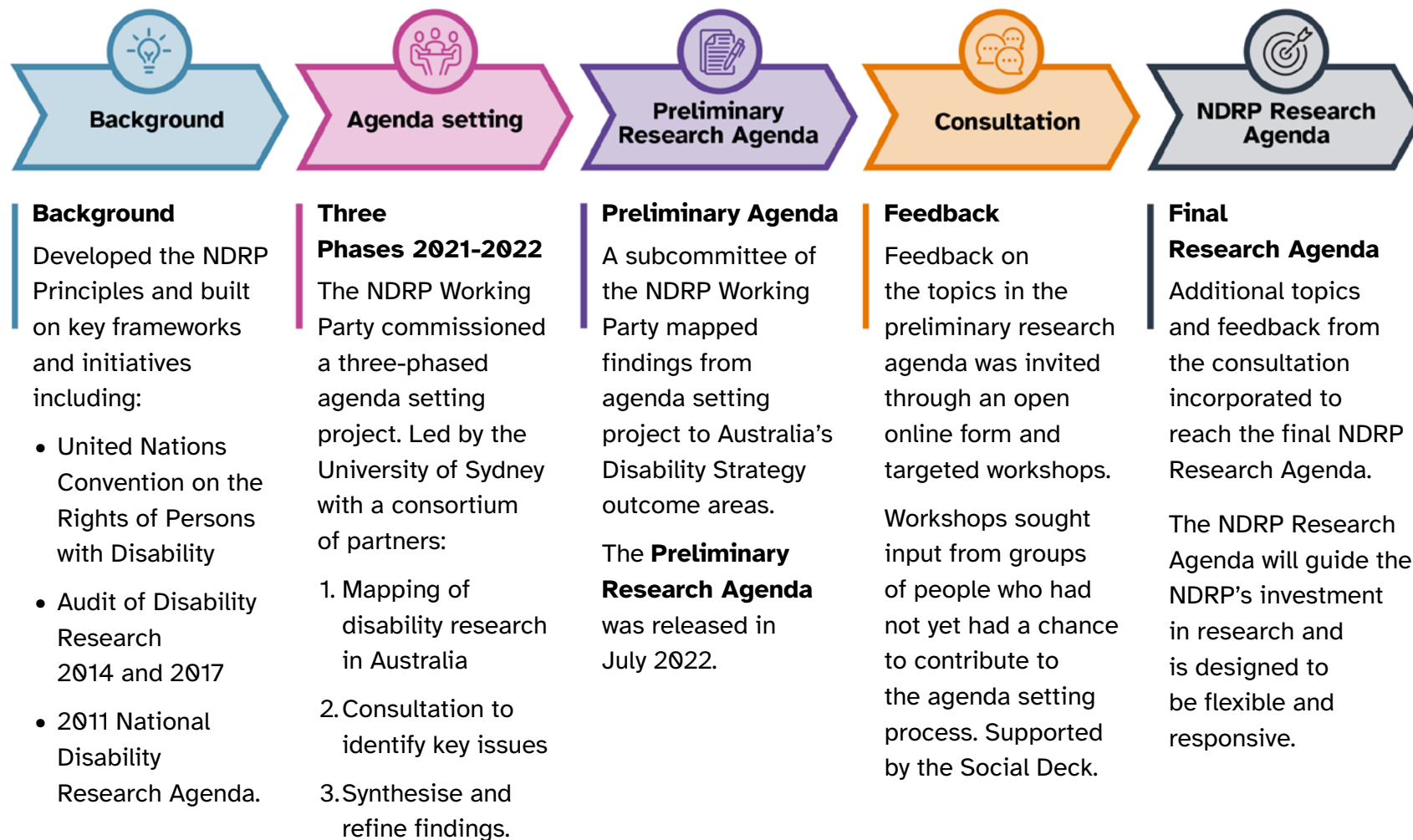
ADS Outcome Area 1: Employment and financial security.

People with disability have economic security, enabling them to plan for the future and exercise choice and control over their lives.



Appendix: Developing the NDRP Research Agenda

The NDRP Research Agenda was developed in collaboration with people with disability, their representative organisations and allies over two years from 2021-2023.



Background

The early work on the NDRP Research Agenda involved due consideration being given to the most prominent documents and activities in Australia related to disability research.

- Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 and its predecessor the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020
- Audit of Disability Research 2014 and 2017
- The 2011 National Disability Research Agenda
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
- Commonwealth, State and Territory government research agendas (including the Disability Reform Council, National Disability Insurance Agency and National Quality and Safeguards Commission)
- Recommendations made about disability research emerging from Australian government inquiries or Royal Commissions
- Large Australian research initiatives and centres such as the Cooperative Research Centre in Autism
- Living Our Ways: An Aboriginal Disability Research Agenda led by First Peoples Disability Network





Agenda-setting

In 2020, the NDRP Working Party held a competitive tender process and appointed a consortium led by the University of Sydney (co-leads Professor Jen Smith-Merry and Associate Professor Mary-Ann O'Donovan) to assist in the development of the Research Agenda. The large consortium included academics from across Australia and non-government organisations, including Disabled People's and Representative Organisations.

The Consortium undertook a three-phase process:

1. Mapping of recent Australian research related to people with disability (2020)

This research mapping focused on Australian research on disability conducted between 2018 and 2020, building on the Report of Audit of Disability Research in Australia 2014 and Update Report in 2017. Findings highlight the need to ensure disability research in Australia centres the voices of people with disability and the need to increase funding and strengthen research capacity for research about underrepresented population groups.

Read the full [mapping report](#).

2. Consultation to identify key issues for research (2021)

The Consortium then gathered information on key issues for the NDRP Research Agenda through a survey and consultations led by organisations involved in the Consortium. The issues identified for future research included:

- disability inclusive research
- human rights
- formal and informal supports
- participation and engagement
- housing
- health services and systems
- government and policy issues.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wanted to see research on the experiences and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability including a focus on mental health, discrimination, violence and abuse and the human rights of people with disability.

Read the survey report at this link: [survey report](#)

Read the consultation report at this link: [consultation report](#)

3. Synthesis and refinement of findings (2022)

Given the broad range of issues, the Consortium used Q-Methodology as a way of synthesising findings and assessing preferences for research that were identified in phases 1 and 2 of the project. Four overlapping viewpoints about research priorities were identified: (1) design and delivery of services and systems; (2) intersecting experiences and disability; (3) systems outcomes and/or impact; and (4) mental health and wellbeing. What these viewpoints demonstrate is that respondents preferred research agendas that look at how systems operate together to support people with disability, or not. There is a strong emphasis on interconnectedness and not simply examining different life domains in isolation.

Read the synthesis report at this link: [synthesis report](#)

The findings from these processes have been published in four reports that can be accessed at this link: [Research Agenda reports](#).



Preliminary Research Agenda

A subcommittee of the NDRP Working Party considered the findings and limitations from the Consortium reports to map the findings onto the ADS outcome areas and policy priorities and deliver a preliminary research agenda. The subcommittee also considered future steps in the Research Agenda development. This was to account for the limitations of the work to date and to ensure as complete a coverage as possible of the diversity of issues of concern for people with disability that could be researched. The report was released in July 2022 and can be accessed here: [NDRP Preliminary Research Agenda](#)

Further development of the Research Agenda

The release of the Preliminary Research Agenda in July 2022 uncovered some gaps in the steps taken to date, showing that some issues of critical importance expressed by the disability community were not included. The approach used had underemphasised the importance of intersectional disadvantage, marginalisation of some groups of people with disability and the relevance of supporting people with disability at different life stages and at life transition points. Additionally, some topics identified as priority areas for research could not be mapped to Australia's Disability Strategy, demonstrating the need for the Research Agenda to reflect the issues of concern to the disability community. Consequently, several further development steps were undertaken in 2023.



Consultation

From April to June 2023, NDRP Working Party engaged The Social Deck to undertake targeted consultations with people with disability about the preliminary Research Agenda. This targeted engagement was to reach groups of people with disability who were not represented or well-represented in the initial consultation process undertaken by the Consortium in 2021. This series of consultations gathered insights into the areas of the preliminary agenda that people with disability said were important to them and some specific topics and areas that were identified by participants as missing from the preliminary Research Agenda. While all research areas were identified as important, the research areas that were the *most often* noted as being important for disability research were:

- Safety of people with disability
- Upholding and promoting the rights of people with disability
- Health and wellbeing
- Housing
- Employment
- Accessible communities

Community attitudes was often raised but sometimes in the context of the other research areas, and in particular relating to rights and discrimination.

Read The Social Deck's consultation report at this link: [consultation report](#)





Final NDRP Research Agenda

To reach the final NDRP Research Agenda, the Research Subcommittee of the NDRP Working Party reviewed all the Research Agenda development reports and brought together the topics that people with disability and their representative organisations said were important and needed research to help improve outcomes for people with disability in Australia.

This review process identified five themes that pervade and underpin each of the 12 research areas in the NDRP Research Agenda. The themes of upholding the rights of people with disability, focusing on safety, addressing ableism and improving attitudes, understanding intersectionality and using a gendered lens are central to the concerns of the disability community in Australia. These themes relate to fundamental challenges that are routinely experienced by people with disability and matters that they want addressed. Along with the NDRP Guiding Principles the thematic areas will assist in guiding the NDRP research program.

The Research Agenda is framed by 12 areas for research, accompanied by specific topics presented as researchable questions. These questions represent the priority topics gathered by listening to people with disability and their representative organisations over the 2.5 years NDRP Research Agenda development process. The NDRP Research Agenda is a living document that will be flexible and responsive to changing priorities and changing circumstances. Within the policy context, the NDRP Research Agenda 2023 complements and extends the seven outcome areas of the ADS and the ADS Outcomes Framework. The NDRP Research Agenda will also inform and be informed by the NDDA and its ongoing development. The NDRP Research Agenda 2023 covers a 10 year time frame, offering guidance on research investment for the short, medium and longer term.