

How the government needs to help people with developmental disability

1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025



What is in this book

This book tells the government what things they should do and spend more money on to help people with developmental disability.

There are lots of things like



ADVOCACY



THE ARTS



BEHAVIOUR



COMMUNICATION



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



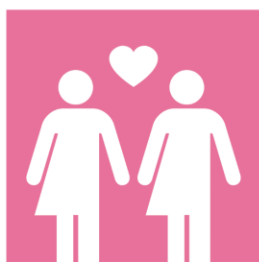
HEALTH



LEGAL



PARENTING



RELATIONSHIPS



SAFETY



SPORT



SUPPORTS



TRANSITION



TRANSPORT



YOUR HOME



About this book

This book was written by Developmental Disability WA (DDWA). When you see the word **we** it means **Developmental Disability WA**.



Developmental disability means a disability that you were born with.



We wrote this book in an easy to read way. We wrote some hard words in **blue**. The first time we write a hard word we tell you what it means.



The DDWA **Advisory Council** told us what important things need to go in this book. The **Advisory Council** has 8 people with developmental disability. They tell us how to make life better for people with disability.

At DDWA we help **families** and people with developmental disability who can



- find it hard to understand things like people with intellectual disability
- think, learn and communicate differently like Autistic people



- find it hard to talk or can not talk at all



- find it hard to stay calm
- find it hard to slow down thinking and moving so they can think of 1 thing at a time and do 1 thing at a time like people with **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder** or **ADHD**.



- find it hard to
 - remember things
 - know what might happen
 - work out what things mean
- like people with **Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or FASD**.

When we say **families** we mean



- parents and grandparents
- brothers and sisters
- aunties and uncles and cousins
- and close friends who love and care for a person with disability.



Advocacy



There are not enough **specialist advocates** in WA. **Specialist advocates** help people with disability and their families when services are not being fair.

Specialist advocates know a lot about some services like



- schools

- health



- **courts** – **Courts** are places where a judge decides if you have broken the law.



- **child protection**. **Child protection** means a government service that looks after children when the government do not think their parents can.



The Government needs to make sure there are more specialist education and health advocates.



Specialist education advocates

- help parents of students with disability
- help when things are not working well at school



Specialist health advocates

- help a person see the right service
- help the person make a complaint when something goes wrong
- help the person make a complaint when a service will not help them

Lots of people with developmental disability do not know their rights.



The Government needs to make sure people with developmental disability know about

- their rights
- how to speak up for themselves
- how to build their **self advocacy** skills.

Self advocacy means speaking up for yourself.



The Arts



Lots of places that do fun things make it hard for people with developmental disability to join in with things like

- music
- dancing
- painting
- taking photos



The Government need to make sure more places make their shows and activities better for people with developmental disability.



The Government needs to make sure that **Companion Card places** know about all kinds of disability. Not everyone needs a wheelchair accessible space.



A **Companion Card** is for family and others who help people with disability go to events. They can go into events for free.



Behaviour



Lots of places do not know how to make their services good for people with developmental disability.



We can tell when things are not good for a person by their behaviour. They may do things like:

- get upset and cry
- get angry and yell
- throw things
- break things



The Government needs to make sure that all places learn how to make their services good for people with developmental disability. They need to

- stop blaming the person with disability about the way they behave
- learn how they can help them better and make changes to their service



Many families get really tired trying to help the person with disability to stay calm and not get upset.



The Government needs to make sure there are **peer support** groups. They need leaders who are paid to help these families.



A **peer support** group is a group of people with the same problem who talk to each other. The group leaders can help them work out problems.



Positive behaviour support practitioners can help families when someone has a disability and it is hard for them to be calm enough to enjoy life. They help families to work out

- what things around the person need to change
- why the person gets stressed, upset or angry
- how the family and others can help the person



- if there is a health problem that needs to be looked at

Some **Positive Behaviour Support practitioners** are stopping work.

The **NDIS Commission** have made it too hard for them to do their job. Some are getting big fines for doing small things wrong. The **NDIS Commission** is a government service that makes sure NDIS providers do a good job.



The Government needs to make sure the NDIS Commission fixes the problems. This will make sure people can get the help they need.



Some children can not live at home and need to live somewhere else safely. They need support from people who know how to help them feel safe and stay calm.



The Government needs to make sure there are more safe places for them to live and give their family a break.



Communication



Most people do not know how to connect with people with **communication disability**. A **Communication disability** can make it

- hard to talk
- hard to understand things
- hard for other people to understand the person



The Government needs to make sure government workers learn about how they can help people with communication disability.



They need to learn about **Alternative and Augmentative communication**. This is known as **AAC** for short.



AAC means there are lots of different ways to talk like

- pointing to pictures or symbols in a book
- pressing buttons on an iPad
- using your hands to make a sign
- using your face to show how you feel
- using your body to show what you need
- using your eyes to look at what you want
- moving your head to say yes or no
- using your voice to make sounds
- speaking words with our mouth



The Government needs to add communication disability as a type of disability when government **Acts** are updated. **Acts** are the governments laws and rules.



The Government needs to make sure all government websites have easy read pages.



People must be able to find the easy read pages on the homepage.



The Government needs to put the same easy read logo on all government websites in WA.

You can get the logo if you click on this link. You can change the colour if you want to.

<https://ddwa.org.au/easy-read-coaching-and-support/>



Artificial Intelligence or AI means making computers think and do things like humans. The Government needs to make sure AI is used to help people with developmental disability. Things like

- helping to find information
- helping to fill out online forms
- helping to explain things





Education



Not all teachers know how to help students with developmental disabilities like

- Intellectual Disability
- Autism
- ADHD
- FASD
- **Dyslexia.** This means hard to read
- **Dysgraphia.** This means hard to write
- **Dyscalculia.** This means hard to do maths



The Government needs to make sure all teachers and trainee teachers learn about how to make school a good place for students with developmental disability.



Students with developmental disability and their parents need more help to plan for when school finishes. Things like

- keeping school friendships
- going to TAFE and university



- all kinds of job choices
- sport clubs and hobbies



The Government needs to make sure schools help students to start planning for their future in Year 9.



Make sure TAFE and other adult education places help students with intellectual disability.



People want to keep on learning new things after they leave school and as they grow older.



Employment



The Government has not made many jobs for people with disability. They have not made any jobs for people with intellectual disability.

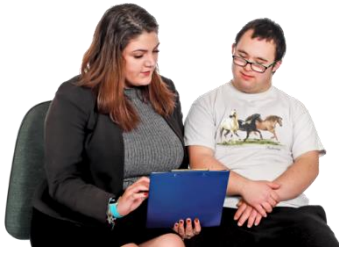


They should be the leaders to

- find job roles that people with intellectual disability can do
- show how to **recruit** people with intellectual disability. **Recruit** means to get someone a job.



Jobs might only start at a few hours a week. When a person learns more things they can work more hours.



The government needs to help businesses to employ and keep people with intellectual disability in jobs.



The Government needs to make sure that students who do not have **WACE** and **OLNA** can do government school based **traineeships**. These **traineeships** are when you have a part time government job and you are still at school.



WACE is the short name for Western Australian Certificate of Education. You get this when you finish year 12.



OLNA is the short name for Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment. You need to pass this test to get a WACE.



The Government needs to make sure there are traineeships for students with disability when they leave school.



Health



Children and young people with disability have to wait more than a year to see a **paediatrician**. A **paediatrician** is a specialist doctor for children. They can tell you what kind of disability you have.



The Government needs to make sure there are more paediatricians in WA to help children with disability.



Adults with intellectual disability cannot see a **Specialist physician** in WA because there are none that know a lot about intellectual disability. **Specialist physicians** are doctors who have done a lot of extra training.



The Government needs to make sure there are more nurses and therapists that know about developmental disability. They can help people while they are waiting to see the specialist doctor.



The Government need to make sure that people with developmental disability get help to see a doctor for an annual health check.

The Government needs to make sure that when people with developmental disability go to hospital they



- get seen by people who know about disabilities like Autism and intellectual disability
- get seen quickly because they do not understand about waiting
- can go somewhere quiet to calm down like a sensory room



There is nowhere for people with developmental disability to go when they leave hospital and can not look after themselves yet.



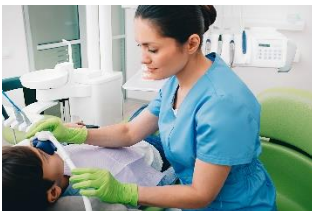
The Government needs to make sure there are places to go while they get well.



Most mental health services do not know how to help people with developmental disability. People with developmental disability and mental illness often do not get help.



The Government needs to make sure mental health services get training in disabilities like Autism.



There are not enough Special Needs Dentists to help people with developmental disability. The Government needs to make sure there are more trained specialist dentists working in WA.

~~SPECIAL NEEDS~~

The Government needs to make sure they change the old name to a new name like Specialist Dentist – Disability.



Legal



Lots of parents of adults with developmental disability are being told they need to become **legal guardians**. **Legal guardians** make decisions for people with disability.



Many people with a developmental disability do not need a legal guardian.



The Government needs to make sure **natural guardianship** is understood in the community. **Natural guardianship** for adults is the same as when parents make decisions for people before they turn 18.



Many people with developmental disability are not being given the chance to say and choose what they want.



With help from someone they trust they can make their own choices. This is called **supported decision making**.



Some people with developmental disability have family who control their money.



They need a **mediator** to help them have a say about how they spend money. A **mediator** is someone who is in the middle and helps work out a problem.



The Government needs to make sure people with disability can get legal help when the NDIS is not giving them what they need.



The Government needs to make sure there are good ways for people with intellectual disability to vote in government **elections**. **Elections** are when we choose who is going to make the laws.



Lots of legal forms are too hard for people with intellectual disability to read.

An 'easy read' form titled 'Please fill in this easy read form'. It features three sections: 'Your name' with a person icon, 'Address' with a house icon, and 'Phone' with a mobile phone icon. The form is designed to be simple and accessible for people with intellectual disabilities.

The Government needs to make sure more forms are written in easy read. Then people understand what forms mean before they sign their name.



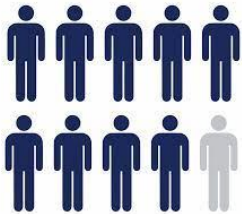
Not all police and prison staff know how to help people with developmental disabilities.



The Government needs to make sure they all learn about different types of developmental disability.



Parenting



9 out of 10 parents with intellectual disability have their babies taken away from them.



Department of
Health



State Administrative Tribunal



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

The Government needs to make sure health, law, NDIS and **child protection services** work together. They can help parents keep their babies and children.



They also need to make sure parents who can not look after their baby get to see them a lot more.



They need to see them more than 1 hour every month.



Relationships



People with developmental disability can find it hard to make and keep friendships and relationships. Loneliness is a big problem.

People with developmental disability need more time and help to



- make and keep friendships
- think and talk about problems
- learn about being close to another person
- learn about sexuality



Make sure there are counsellors who know about disability to talk about

- getting close to someone else
- how to stay safe in a relationship
- problems



The Government needs to make sure there are more places and things where people with developmental disability can meet **peers**.



Peers are people like yourself who you connect with.



The Government needs to help local governments make places better for people with developmental disability so they can build friendships. Places like disability friendly

- youth clubs
- sport clubs
- hobby places
- volunteer places
- social events



Safety



Some people with disability and their family can not get away from others in the family who hurt them.



People with developmental disability get hurt a lot more than people who do not have a disability.



The Government needs to make sure there is somewhere safe to go to for

- adults with intellectual disability
- mothers and their adult sons with intellectual disability. Adult sons cannot go to a women's refuge.
- mothers and children who use wheelchairs
- mothers of people with disability who find it hard to stay calm





Some adults with developmental disability are **abused** by others. **Abused** means treated very badly and hurt by others.



They need help to

- keep safe
- make sure their rights are supported.

Children and adults with developmental disability have more **cyber safety** risks. They are at risk of



- not knowing if something is a scam
- online grooming
- online abuse and harassment
- not knowing how to report abuse
- sharing personal information
- **identity theft**. **Identity theft** means when some legally pretends to be you.



Sport



Lots of sporting clubs cost too much money for people who live on the Disability Support Pension.



The Government needs to make sure it is cheaper for people with developmental disability to join sporting clubs.



The government needs to help sporting clubs to make it easier for people with intellectual disability to join in. Things like

- writing easy read websites rules and forms
- letting people borrow uniforms and equipment when they join
- having new player buddies who help people when they join
- having transport like small buses
- making the venue more accessible





SUPPORTS

Supports



Lots of families get tired of talking to lots of different people at the NDIS who do not know them.



The Government needs to make sure there are WA services that get to know people with developmental disability and their families.

Families want to talk to people that can help because they



- really know about developmental disability
- can give good information



Lots of families are very tired looking after their family members who need a lot of care 24 hours a day.



They need a break so they can have a good rest and do some fun things they like.



The Government needs to make sure there are lots of **respite** choices for families. **Respite** means having a break from caring for someone.



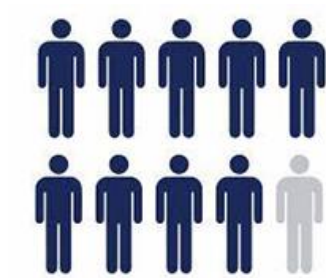
There are not many safe places for adults with developmental disability to stay at when there is a **crisis**.



A **crisis** is when things are really hard or dangerous and you need help straight away.



The Government needs to make sure there are safe places for people with developmental disability to go to when family can not help.



9 out of 10 young people at Banksia Hill Detention Centre have a disability or learning problem.



They need more help from disability services so they have a plan for when they leave the Banksia Hill Detention Centre.



Transition



Lots of people with developmental disability need help when there are big life changes called **transitions**. **Transitions** can be when a person

- finds out they have a disability
- starts school
- moves to high school
- turns 16
- turns 18
- leaves school
- starts work
- moves into their own home
- starts a relationship
- becomes a parent
- leaves work
- has to live for the first time without their parents who have died



The Government need to make sure there are good services to help people and their families during transitions.



The Government needs to make sure there is help for parents who are planning for when they die.



They want to plan about things like

- leaving money
- who makes decisions
- housing



Young people leaving **foster care** do not have a specialist advocate to help them.

They need help from when they are 15 years old to make a good plan for their future.

Foster care is a government service that looks after children when their parents can not.



Transport



Many people with developmental disability do not feel safe on public transport. They feel very unsafe at night.



The Government needs to make sure people with developmental disability know how to stay safe on public transport.

Information is hard to understand for people with intellectual disability.



The Government needs to

- use pictures instead of letters and signs



- write information in easy read.

- Give out information on paper



- use a 12 hour clock with morning afternoon and night



- make websites and apps easy to use



- train all staff about disability



- have a **24/7** support line to call. **24/7** means anytime day and night.



There are no rules for **rideshare drivers** to help people with disability. **Rideshare drivers** are people who drive you in their cars for Uber, Ola and Didi.



It is hard for learner drivers to do the written driving test.

Need to make sure test can be done with easy read questions.



Your Home



It is hard for people with developmental disability to move out of their family home.



The Government needs to make sure disability and housing services work together so people with developmental disability are not

- pushed into living with others if they don't want to
- forced to live in blocks of flats and units where they do not feel safe



People have to wait for years and years to rent a government house. There needs to be

- more accessible houses built every year
- houses built in the country and the city



The Government needs to make sure homeless people with developmental disability get put on the top of the waiting list for a place to live.

Keystart.

The Government needs to make sure more people with developmental disability can get jobs. Then they can ask for a government home loan like **Keystart**. **Keystart** is a place where you can get a special home loan if you have a low income.

Legal things

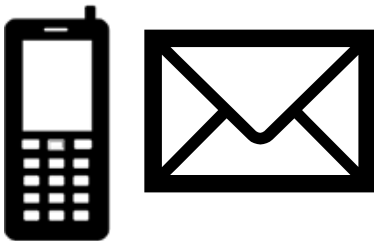


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