

Empowered Lives

SECURING CHANGE FOR VICTORIANS WITH DISABILITY



About the platform

Empowered Lives: Securing Change for Victorians with Disability brings together people with disability, advocates, and organisations across the disability community.

Together, we have developed this platform for change – outlining the key issues that face Victorians with disability in their interactions with Victorian Government systems, and setting out achievable actions the Government can take to provide more opportunities for people with disability, more inclusive environments and communities, and stronger support when needed.

In *Empowered Lives*, we identify 10 key areas for change and 70 priority actions the Victorian Government can take across these areas.

This includes delivering inclusive service systems – whether it is health, education, justice or disability services, supporting Victorian families, creating jobs, and improving the accessibility of our transport and infrastructure.

Each of these areas is underpinned by a focus on the empowerment of people with disability and on strong safeguards to ensure safety and freedom from violence and abuse.

Shortlist of priority actions

Using the priority actions identified in *Empowered Lives*, we have developed this shortlist, which shows the highest priority actions the Victorian Government can take to help achieve the rights of Victorians with disability.

We call on the Victorian Government to:

- 1 Ensure the voices of people with disability are heard**
by increasing Victorian disability advocacy funding in line with the Productivity Commission's recommendation.
- 2 Guarantee and strengthen safeguards**
to promote safety and protect people with disability against violence and abuse.
- 3 Better support parents with disability and parents and carers of children with disability.**
- 4 Improve transport access**
by conducting an accessibility audit of the entire Victorian public transport system and funding a long-term program of accessibility improvements.



5 Increase accessible housing
by mandating universal housing standards and building more social housing accessible for people with disability.

6 Ensure health services meet the needs of people with disability
by improving health professionals' knowledge and understanding of disability and filling gaps in the interface between the NDIS and health systems.

7 Make schools more inclusive
by reforming the Program for Students with Disabilities and implementing a tailored bullying prevention program.

8 Build community awareness
of disability and the benefits of employing people with disability.

9 Increase the justice system's disability responsiveness
by providing appropriate training and strengthening relevant policies and supports.

10 Adequately fund mainstream services outside the NDIS
to meet the needs of all people with disability, including those who are not eligible for the NDIS.

Our sincere thanks to the many people with disability, advocates, supporters, and organisations who have generously contributed their time, expertise and insights to the development of this platform, including members of the Advisory Committee and Disability Network Forum.

More information

More information about Empowered Lives, including the full platform and an Easy English summary, can be found online at empoweredlives.vcross.org.au/

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