Organisation

Document Title

**Easy English Month Year**

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

* the word is in **blue**
* we write what the hard word means.

**You can get help with this book**

You can get someone to help you

* read this book
* know what this book is about
* find more information.
* About this book

This book is written by the Victorian Council of Social Service or VCOSS.

This book is about our plan for change called **Empowered** Lives.

Empowered means to be in control of your life.

Our plan is about how the Victorian Government can help people with disability

* have choice and control
* be part of the community
* get support when needed.

Our plan is based on **human rights**.

Human rights are things everyone should

* get
* have
* do.

Lots of people and groups have worked on
our plan.

We want the Victorian Government to make changes based on our plan.

**Our goals**

We have 10 goals that will make Victoria a better place for people with disability.

The aim of each goal is to

* empower people with disability
* make communities more inclusive
* make communities safer.

**Goal 1 Help people with disability to be heard**

People with disability

* have the same rights as other people
* must be heard by the government.

Some people with disability need help
from **advocates**.

An advocate can help people with disability to

* understand information
* make decisions
* tell the government about their needs.

We want the government to

* increase advocacy support for people

 with disability

* include people with disability when they

 make plans

* give people information that is easy to read

 and understand

* support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

 people with disability.

**Goal 2 Make sure people with disability are safe from violence**

People with disability must be safe from harm.

For example

* violence
* **abuse**

 abuse means when someone hurts you

* **neglect**

 neglect means someone does **not** get the right care.

We want the government to have strong **safeguards** for people with disability.

Safeguards might mean better

* support services
* access to advocacy services
* ways to make complaints and be heard.

We also want the government to make sure people with disability are safe from

* **family violence**

 family violence means harm in the family

* **elder abuse**

 elder abuse means harm to older people

* **restrictive practices**

 restrictive practices mean things that

 reduce freedom.

**Goal 3 Help people with disability to be connected**

People with disability must be able to connect with their

* family
* friends
* community.

We want the government to

* give better support to families with disability
* make a better child protection system for

 children and parents with disability

* give carers better support and information
* give people with disability better information

 about **sexual and reproductive health**

* for example, information about sex,

relationships and the body.

**Goal 4 Make public places and transport more accessible**

Our communities must be inclusive and **accessible** for people with disability.

Accessible might mean good

* physical access
* for example, ramps
* services
* for example, people feel welcome.

We want the government to have
more accessible

* public transport
* for example, buses and trains
* public spaces
* for example, more accessible toilets

called Changing Places

* public buildings and outdoor areas
* for example, new buildings that are made

for everyone to use.

**Goal 5 Make sure people with disability have the right houses**

People with disability must be able to choose houses that are

* accessible
* affordable
* safe.

We want the government to help people
with disability

* find more accessible houses
* make rental houses more accessible
* live on their own or with family
* get accessible **social housing** and

 **crisis accommodation**.

Social housing means houses for people who can **not** afford other housing.

Crisis accommodation means houses for people to stay in for a short time.

* For example, if people need to escape

family violence.

**Goal 6 Make sure people with disability have good healthcare**

Our healthcare system must

* be accessible
* be based on human rights
* have staff who can meet the needs of

 people with disability.

We want the government to

* educate healthcare workers about the needs

 of people with disability

* make sure people with disability get the right

 healthcare as the NDIS rolls out

make sure people with mental illness get the

* right healthcare
* give people with disability choice and control
* for example, clear written information.

**Goal 7 Give people with disability equal education**

People with disability must have access to good education.

We want the government to

* give the right supports to every student

 with disability

* have programs that teach staff and students

 about how to include people with disability

* help stop bullying in schools
* make sure schools are built in an

 accessible way.

**Goal 8 Help people with disability find the right jobs**

People with disability must have support to
get jobs.

For example, help from

* schools
* employers
* people in the community
* social security supports
* money from Centrelink.

We want the government to

* tell employers and the community why it is
* good to hire people with disability
* educate career advisors about different

 careers for people with disability

* employ more people with disability
* make social security supports better.

**Goal 9 Make sure people with disability know their rights**

People with disability must have access to the

**justice system**.

The justice system might mean

* the police
* courts
* prisons.

People with disability need more help if they

* are victims of crime
* have problems with the law.

We want the government to

* give people with disability clear information

about the law so they can make decisions

* for example, so they can report a crime
* support people with disability when they

have to use the justice system

* for example, when they talk to police.

**Goal 10 Make sure people with disability have the supports they need**

People with disability must have access to support that meets their needs.

We want the government to make sure

* the NDIS and other disability services

 work together

* people with disability and **no** NDIS plan can
* still access the right services
* people with disability can access
* crisis services if they need to
* disability support workers have the right

 experience and education.

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