

# CYDA Strategic Plan 2020–2024

## Our Vision

Children and young people with disability are valued and living empowered lives with equality of opportunity



## Purpose

To ensure governments, communities and families, are empowering children and young people with disability to fully exercise their rights and aspirations



Children and Young People  
with Disability Australia

# Our ideal future

## A lifetime of choices and opportunities

### Children and young people with disability:

- Are always safe, fully included, respected and valued
- Can fulfill their education, work, housing and independence potential and aspirations
- Enjoy strong connections, friendships and evolving networks as they grow
- Have families and communities that celebrate their talents and strengths with high expectations for their future

## Independent and powerful

### Children and young people with disability:

- Are proud to express their identity and individuality
- Are recognised as the agents and experts in their life, making informed decisions as they grow
- Are included in ways that are meaningful to them
- Understand their human rights and these are upheld

## Leading the way

### Children and young people with disability:

- Are recognised and their expertise is sought out, valued and utilised
- Have their voices heard and respected and are shaping the design of the policies, systems and practices that affect them
- Have opportunities to learn, lead and grow



# What we will do and how we will do it

1

## Drive inclusion

- Ensure families, caregivers, communities and systems have high expectations and aspirations for children and young people
- Drive inclusion from the earliest age, focusing on early learning and school
- Create inclusive environments where children and young people are welcomed and valued



2

## Create equitable life pathways and opportunities

- Increase pathways to post-school independence
- Place children and young people at the centre of policy and reform
- Leverage the flexibility of digital inclusion and entrepreneurship



3

## Lead changes in community attitudes and aspirations

- Develop the voices of young leaders through co-design and paid opportunities
- Change community attitudes about children and young people with disability
- Build a network of allies to support social change



4

## Support young people to take control

- Grow the confidence, leadership capability, and agency of young people
- Connect young people with change agents and networks, building an ecosystem
- Provide platforms and opportunities for young people to use their expertise to solve problems



5

## Call out discrimination, abuse, and neglect

- Highlight systemic injustices and drive reform
- Coordinate action to ensure rights are upheld
- Support and empower children and young people, and their families and caregivers, to hold those in power to account





# What we value and how we work

## Our work is rights-based

- We are led by the direct experiences and diverse voices and visions of children and young people with disability across Australia
- We ground our work in evidence and a human rights approach
- We support First Nations young people and their communities

## We are bold and creative

- We work in respectful, flexible and empowering ways
- We recognise and value the individual strengths and experiences of those we work with
- We prioritise collaboration and bringing others on the journey of change
- We are open to new ideas and value diverse thinking
- We are a learning organisation and are ever evolving

## We hold ourselves and others accountable

- We prioritise accessibility and inclusion, and embrace intersectionality
- We hold ourselves and others to account for creating an equitable and inclusive society for children and young people with disability
- We authentically represent our members and children and young people with disability

