

CYDA's Strategic Plan 2024-27 represents a process that goes beyond co-design. CYDA's Board of Directors are responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the organisation. They are also members of the community CYDA represents – young people with disability, and family members of children and young people with disability. With this representation, we are confident the leadership and decision-making involved in creating this plan, aligns well with the community CYDA serves.

In addition to the Board's leadership, they consulted directly with young people with disability, families and caregivers of children and young people with disability, CYDA staff, and key organisations who fund, work with, and support the community. CYDA is grateful for the collective wisdom and generosity of everyone who contributed to this plan.



Vision

Children and young people with disability across Australia can fully exercise their rights, realise their aspirations, and thrive in all communities.



Purpose

We advance equality of opportunity by working with children and young people with disability, their families and communities, to drive systemic change.



Core principles

At CYDA, the work we do is guided by these core principles:

Centring lived experience

We recognise the importance of lived experience in influencing systemic change through raising awareness, mobilising support, and holding decision-makers to account. Children, young people and families' perspectives are valued and centred in all our work.

Targeting innovation and fostering a solutions-focused culture

We work in partnership with children, young people, families and stakeholders to identify solutions that are innovative and build on strengths and opportunities.

Collaborating for change and collective impact

We build strategic partnerships where we share resources, expertise, and networks to drive systemic change. We cannot make lasting change alone.






Placing an intentional focus on intersectionality

We acknowledge children and young people with disability have diverse experiences and backgrounds. We engage children and young people in ways that are trauma-informed and recognise individuality.

Leveraging state and national reform agendas

We understand the way government decisions are made and we engage in partnerships that help us maximise the outcomes for children and young people with disability.

Strategic goals

 <p>Goal 1 Raise community attitudes and expectations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote youth-led approaches and share lived experiences to influence positive attitudes and high expectations. Build the capacity and capability of governments, organisations and communities to be inclusive, innovative, and responsive to children and young people with disability. Call attention to the diverse experiences and backgrounds of children and young people with disability and how this may impact inclusion and access. Highlight the disproportionate impact of poverty and disadvantage for children and young people with disability. 	 <p>Goal 2 Champion initiatives that promote the best start in the early years for children with disability, and their families and caregivers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Guide families and caregivers to make informed choices that enhance lifelong outcomes for their children. Support the co-design of early childhood reforms with the community and hold governments to account to implement change. Advocate for system reform that ensures all children with disability receive effective, evidence-based support how, when, and where they need it. 	 <p>Goal 3 Lead social change to transform education systems to be inclusive at all points across life stages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the rights of children and young people with disability to access safe, inclusive education. Build sector capacity to transform educational inclusion in early childhood, primary and secondary school, and tertiary education. Advocate for government commitment to ongoing reform and innovative solutions in education. 	 <p>Goal 4 Advocate for systems that facilitate successful life transitions to adulthood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grow the confidence, agency, and leadership capability of young people; and build the confidence, knowledge, and aspirations of caregivers. Support key transition periods for young people with disability by strengthening the capacity of services that support education, employment, housing, identity, and independent living. Listen to and elevate the lived experiences of young people to urge government to commit to ongoing reform in education, employment and housing. 	 <p>Goal 5 Lead innovative initiatives to ensure the sustainability and impact of the organisation and the broader sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with stakeholders to maximise the effective delivery and impact of initiatives and programs. Seek diverse and flexible funding sources which respond to the needs of our community, support a skilled workforce, and provide opportunities to young people with disability. Work collaboratively with disability organisations and the disability community to highlight the role of systemic advocacy and lead the conversation on sector sustainability.
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