

ADS Governance Team
Australia's Disability Strategy
Disability Reforms and Royal Commission Group
Department of Social Services
E: ADSGovernance@dss.gov.au

6 May 2025

Dear ADS Governance Team,

CYDA's Feedback on Australia's Disability Strategy Evaluation scope

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) is the national representative organisation for children and young people with disability aged 0 to 25 years. CYDA has extensive national networks of young people with disability, families and caregivers of children with disability, and advocacy and community organisations.

Our vision is that children and young people with disability in Australia will fully exercise their rights, realise their aspirations and thrive in all communities.

Please accept this letter as CYDA's formal feedback to Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31 (ADS) Evaluation scope.

CYDA is supportive of the Department of Social Services' approach to design, conduct and report the findings of the first Evaluation of ADS for the period 2021 to 2025. Below we outline our feedback on the three areas requested by the ADS Governance Team.

1. Intended scope of the Independent Evaluation

CYDA supports the proposed areas identified by the ADS Governance Team as within scope. We also agree that the areas listed as queries to be out of scope are appropriate—except for the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA).

While the NDDA is still being developed, significant contributions have already been made by the community and disability experts to establish disability indicators. These indicators are now available for use in approved projects, as noted on the [NDDA website](#). Given this progress and investment, CYDA recommends that the NDDA should be included in the Evaluation scope.

2. Steering Committee membership

CYDA recommends that the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee include clearly identified positions and representation quotas to ensure the inclusion of people from all key intersectional disability groups, remunerated in line with best practice. This should include children and young people with disability, First Nations people with disability, LGBTIQ+ people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with disability, women and girls with disability, people with Intellectual

Disability, and people with disability living in regional and remote areas. Representation from these groups is essential to ensure the Evaluation reflects the diverse experiences and priorities of the disability community and aligns with the inclusive intent of the ADS.

3. Involving people with disability in the Evaluation

CYDA recommends that an Expression of Interest (EOI) be shared with Disability Representative Organisations (DROs) to circulate among their staff and membership networks, ensuring broad reach to people with disability who have skills and experience in evaluation. CYDA would be pleased to support the promotion of this opportunity through our social media channels and e-newsletter to help encourage applications from a diverse and representative pool of candidates.

In closing, while not directly related to the scope of the Evaluation, we draw your attention to [CYDA's submission to Australia's Disability Strategy Review \(2024\)](#)—which outlines critical areas for strengthening the ADS. These include the need for improved reporting mechanisms, more robust and inclusive data collection, and stronger intersectional representation and engagement across all aspects of the Strategy's design and implementation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to consider the scope of the ADS Evaluation.

If you would like to know more about CYDA's work or the details of our feedback outlined in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Liz Hudson, Policy and Research Manager, on 03 9417 1025 or info@cyda.org.au.

Kind regards,



Skye Kakoschke-Moore
Chief Executive Officer