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Australian Government  
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28 August 2025

Please accept this letter as Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)'s submission to the consultation on Australia's fourth Universal Periodic Review – draft National Report.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback on:

1. Australia's draft National Report
2. The implementation status of the 344 recommendations Australia received at its UPR in 2021, and
3. Potential voluntary commitments Australia could make during its appearance.

### **About Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)**

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, their families and caregivers, 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.

Our [Strategic Goals](#) are:

Goal 1 Raise community attitudes and expectations

Goal 2 Champion initiatives that promote the best start in the early years for children with disability, and their families and caregivers

Goal 3 Lead social change to transform education systems to be inclusive at all points across life stages

Goal 4 Advocate for systems that facilitate successful life transitions to adulthood

Goal 5 Lead innovative initiatives to ensure the sustainability and impact of the organisation and the broader sector.

### **CYDA's Response to the consultation paper**

Our response is informed by the lived expertise of CYDA staff with lived and family experience of disability.

#### ***1: Australia's draft National Report***

CYDA makes no substantive comment on Point 1 – the draft National Report – as it primarily outlines existing Australian Government policy frameworks and commitments.

#### ***2: The implementation status of the 344 recommendations Australia received at its UPR in 2021***

CYDA has reviewed the 344 recommendations Australia received at its UPR in 2021.

We have identified 50 recommendations relevant to CYDA, that relate to children, girls, boys, youth and people with disability.

Of these 50 recommendations, less than half have been accepted by Australia:

- 23 “accepts”
- 14 “notes”
- 6 “notes and will consider further”, and
- 7 “notes but will not consider further at this time”.

**CYDA strongly recommends the Australian Government accept the 27 outstanding recommendations above**, that have only been noted to date.

These 27 outstanding recommendations reflect the priorities of our community and are directly relevant to CYDA's Strategic Goals. They call for stronger action to improve outcomes in the areas of education, justice, age of criminal responsibility, harm prevention, and compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In particular, we support:

- Access to inclusive education for children with disability (Recommendations 230 and 240-241)
- Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in line with international best practice and to protect children and young people with disability and other intersectional identities (Recommendations 40, 142, 147, 152, 159, 161, 164)
- Strengthening Australia's actions on the Convention on the Rights of the Child to be more inclusive of children and young people with disability (Recommendations 8, 9, 232, 233, 237, and 252)
- Improved access to and conditions for justice for those with disability (Recommendations 39, 124, 135, 183, 207, 229, 242, 244, 247, and 249)
- Strengthening protection from harm for the disability community and other intersectional identities (Recommendations 101, 245, 246, and 248).

We also agree with Recommendation 231, for a national plan for child wellbeing and national children's data framework.

### ***3: Potential voluntary commitments Australia could make during its appearance.***

CYDA recommends that the Australian Government make a voluntary commitment to a national Human Rights Act. This is in line with the recommendations of 12 Disability Representative Organisations, including CYDA. For further information, see the joint statement here: [Strengthening protection of the rights of people with disability through a national Human Rights Act \(HRA\)](#)

Thank you again for this opportunity to make a submission to Australia's fourth Universal Periodic Review.

Yours sincerely



Dr Liz Hudson

Policy and Research Manager