

PWDA 2022 Election Platform Scorecard

This evaluation is based on responses to PWDA's 2022 Election Platform, as well as commitments made by parties and candidates during the election campaign.

Key

- ✓ good commitment
- ✗ no commitment
- partial commitment
- ? no response

- Lib-Nat** Liberal-National Coalition
- One Nat** Pauline Hanson's One Nation
- UAP** United Australia Party
- Cen All** Centre Alliance
- Steggall** Zali Steggall
- RPT** Rex Patrick Team
- Haines** Helen Haines
- Wilkie** Andrew Wilkie

Health and wellbeing	Lib-Nat	Labor	Greens	One Nat	UAP	Cen All	Steggall	RPT	Haines	Wilkie
Emergency/disaster prioritisation for PWD	✓	✓	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	●	✓
Improve COVID protection for PWD	✗	✓	✓	✗	?	●	●	?	●	✓
Fund COVID plan for PWD	✗	✗	●	✗	?	●	✗	?	✗	✓
Employment and financial security	Lib-Nat	Labor	Greens	One Nat	UAP	Cen All	Steggall	RPT	Haines	Wilkie
Life-long access to the DSP	✗	✗	✓	✗	?	✗	✗	?	✗	✗
Abolish barriers to accessing DSP	✗	✗	✓	✗	?	✗	✗	?	✗	●
Get rid of the BasicsCard , Cashless Debit cards and compulsory income management	✗	✗	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	●	●
Deliver more effective employment pathways for PWD	✓	✓	✓	✗	?	✗	✗	?	✗	✓

Inclusive homes and communities	Lib–Nat	Labor	Greens	One Nat	UAP	Cen All	Steggall	RPT	Haines	Wilkie
Address housing issues, especially SDA and SIL	✓	✓	✓	✗	?	✓	✗	?	✓	✓
Commit to the DPOA <i>Segregation Position Statement</i> recommendations	✗	✗	✓	✗	?	✗	✗	?	✗	✓
Invest in accessible and affordable social housing	✗	✗	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	✓	✓
Safety, rights and justice	Lib–Nat	Labor	Greens	One Nat	UAP	Cen All	Steggall	RPT	Haines	Wilkie
Implement all DRC recommendations	●	●	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	●	✓
Implement all ACRC recommendations	●	✗	●	●	?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓
Implement all CSARC recommendations	✗	✗	✓	●	?	✓	✗	?	✗	✓
NDIS reforms	Lib–Nat	Labor	Greens	One Nat	UAP	Cen All	Steggall	RPT	Haines	Wilkie
Commit to co-design of NDIS reforms with PWD	✓	✓	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	●	✓
Remove NDIS access barriers to marginalised communities	●	●	✓	✗	?	●	✓	?	●	✓
Education and learning	Lib–Nat	Labor	Greens	One Nat	UAP	Cen All	Steggall	RPT	Haines	Wilkie
Implement the Inclusive Education Roadmap	✓	●	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	●	✓
Community attitudes	Lib–Nat	Labor	Greens	One Nat	UAP	Cen All	Steggall	RPT	Haines	Wilkie
Commit to co-designed anti-ableism campaign	✗	✗	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	●	✓
Improve representation of PWD in all sectors	●	●	✓	✗	?	●	✗	?	●	✓

People with Disability Australia 2022 Federal Election Survey Results

Health and wellbeing	3
Employment and financial security	7
Inclusive homes and communities	11
Safety, rights and justice	15
Personal and community support via the NDIS	18
Education and learning	21
Community attitudes	23

About us

As the national voice of Australians with disability, we empower, champion and celebrate all people with disability.

We're Australia's national peak advocacy organisation for people with disability. Since 1981, we've been advancing and protecting the rights, health and wellbeing of the people and communities we serve.

Led by people with disability, **People with Disability Australia (PWDA)** represents the interests of people with all kinds of disability. We're a not-for-profit community-based organisation and our members comprise a diverse range of individuals and organisations from across Australia.

We work both nationally and internationally, and our work is grounded in a human rights framework that recognises the United Nations' **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and related mechanisms as fundamental tools for advancing the rights of people with disability.

We deliver our programs, services and activities in partnership with thousands of members and supporters as well as a variety of stakeholders across the government, disability, education and research sectors. We receive funding from a range of sources including the **Australian Government, New South Wales** and **Queensland** governments, and **donations from our supporters.**



About PWDA's 2022 Federal Election Survey

PWDA has surveyed a range of political parties and key independent candidates in the lead up to the 2022 federal election campaign about their policy positions on issues that are important to the 1 in 5 Australians who live with disability.

As Australia's peak disability rights and advocacy organisation, we consulted with our members and supporters to develop the PWDA 2022 Election Platform which sets out the commitments we're seeking from political parties and key independent candidates on behalf of the people and communities we serve.

Six weeks before the election was called, we invited the major parties and some key independent candidates to provide responses on the range of commitments we're seeking.

We've evaluated all responses we've received from these parties and candidates and have produced a report and scorecard that we're distributing and promoting in the leadup to the election to help inform the voting decisions of people with disability and their families.

Health and wellbeing



The commitments we're seeking

- Prioritise the safety and protection of all people with disability in all disasters, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Commit to implementing the **disability sector's call** for increased protection for people with disability during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Commit to funding the disability sector to co-produce a detailed plan for protecting the health and wellbeing of people with disability in a world where we must now live with COVID-19.

Liberal–National Coalition

Protecting our most vulnerable Australians is always the highest priority for the **Morrison Government**. Over the course of the pandemic that is what we have been able to do because of our strong economic track record.

Via the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**, the government has continued to adapt and enhance its response to support participants, providers and partners during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic continues to evolve and impact participants and communities, the **National Disability Insurance Agency** has introduced new measures and support initiatives, as well as extending current measures to ensure continuity of essential supports for NDIS participants.

As a result of the Morrison Government's responses and those of state and territory governments, Australia has been fortunate to see the number of infections and deaths of NDIS participants from COVID-19 much lower than the general population.

April 2022 data shows that 2337 (people) per 100,000 NDIS participants (2.3%) have had COVID, compared to 20,700 per 100,000 for the general population (20.7%).

April 2022 data also shows the mortality rate of 24.89 deaths per 100,000 NDIS participants (0.025%), which is lower than the broader Australian community, at a rate of 33.15 deaths per 100,000 people (0.033%) as a result of COVID.

This is not the experience of many nations around the world, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our carers, health workers, NDIS providers and community for ensuring that our most vulnerable Australians are protected.

The Morrison Government also put in place the right measures, based on health advice, to ensure Australians with disability had the supports they needed when they needed them.

At the start of the pandemic, the government provided \$666 million in advance payments to NDIS providers to ensure their viability and the continuity of services to NDIS participants. Throughout

the pandemic, the government and the NDIS implemented a range of temporary and permanent measures, vaccination and booster programs and access to rapid antigen tests, as the pandemic progressed, to ensure NDIS participants were safe.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Department of Health** established an advisory panel to co-design the **Management and Operational Plan for People with Disability**. The advisory panel included academics, health experts, disability advocacy organisations, and state and territory representatives. In consultation with the **Advisory Group** and peak representatives, the **Department of Social Services** has developed a **COVID-19 Disability Winter Preparedness Plan** to guide the government response to future COVID-19 outbreaks.

Additionally, the NDIA has comprehensive emergency management practices in place, most recently in response to flood affected areas of NSW and Queensland. The NDIA stepped up its support, with the **(NDIA) National Contact Centre** prioritising calls from flood-impacted participants so they could quickly provide support to affected participants. Support included approving plans via phone and providing assistive technology requests quicker, allowing participants to replace and access essential supports as required.

More broadly, the Morrison Government has paid more than \$1.66 billion through the **Disaster Recovery Payment** and the **Disaster Recovery Allowance**, which has also benefitted NDIS participants in these regions.

The government will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, including any emerging variants, and respond accordingly to protect all Australians.

Labor Party

The Australian Labor Party recognises that people with disability and their families have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Stress, uncertainty, inadequate support and anxiety have all been experienced by people with disabilities, workers and providers during the last two years. These problems were exacerbated by slow, unclear, indecisive leadership and a lack of coordination.

During COVID, disability too often was subsumed by discussion of the crisis in aged care and too much of the heavy lifting was left to states and territories. The default position to deduct distinct COVID supports out of participant plans without additional funding was simply inadequate.

Labor will promise that people with disability will not be left at the back of the queue.

Senator Jordan Steele-John Australian Greens

The Australian Greens support the implementation of increased protection for people with disability during the current Omicron wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recommendations of the disability sector.

We recognise the extraordinary impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on disabled people across Australia and that any plan to protect people with disability must be co-designed. We are committed to ensuring that all necessary funding is provided.

The Greens are calling for free and accessible access to personal protective equipment (PPE), especially N95 or P2

face masks, oximeters, and rapid antigen tests (RATs) on an ongoing basis for people with disability, as well as their support workers and carers. We are also calling for priority access to vaccinations and testing, along with access to accessible vaccination centres.

Rebekha Sharkie **Centre Alliance**

I have demonstrated my commitment to prioritising the safety and wellbeing of all vulnerable Australians including older Australians and people with disability during the COVID-19 pandemic. If re-elected, I would be supportive of improved planning to help protect the health and wellbeing of people with disability by whomever forms government, in consultation with people with disability and the sector.

Zali Steggall **Independent MP – Warringah**

I will continue to be led by experts in responding to the pandemic and I will prioritise the health and safety of the community while minimising economic harm. Key healthcare policies and initiatives that I support (include) responsible and proportionate responses to COVID-19. Listen to epidemiologists and business, act on their advice, and increase funding and support for essential frontline workers.

I support the calls of the **Australian Medical Association** for the establishment of an Australian centre for disease control.

The (health) sector is stretched from pharmacies and general practice right through to intensive care. This is driving mental health issues and fatigue amongst workers. We need to support them and attract new talent.



We need a review of the system in its entirety to ensure we can maintain a high standard of care that does not sacrifice general health for the fight against an evolving pandemic.

This may include a shift in the funding model towards value or outcomes-based care rather than activity or volume-based funding.

Bundled payments, instead of individual payments for different services have been shown to deliver better outcomes for chronic diseases. A reform such as this is necessary to cope with the ageing population burdened by chronic and complex disease.

A royal commission into the handling of the pandemic and the changing demands on our healthcare sector would unveil these elements and assist with clarifying the confusion, responsibility and blame shifting between the Commonwealth and state healthcare systems.

Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi

The government's failure to prioritise people with disabilities through the COVID vaccination program has been appalling. I support greater efforts to protect vulnerable populations through this public health crisis.

Andrew Wilkie

I support each of the above (PWDA) commitments:

- Prioritise the safety and protection of all people with disability in all disasters, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Commit to implementing the disability sector's call for increased protection for people with disability during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Commit to funding the disability sector to co-produce a detailed plan for protecting the health and wellbeing of people with disability in a world where we must now live with COVID-19.

Employment and financial security



The commitments we're seeking

Financial security

- Provide life-long access to the **Disability Support Pension**.
- Abolish barriers to accessing Centrelink's Disability Support Pension, including fixing the **DSP Impairment Tables**.

- Get rid of the **BasicsCard, Cashless Debit cards** and all forms of compulsory **income management**.

Employment

- Deliver more effective pathways to employment that are co-designed with people with disability and take into account the needs of all people with a disability.

Liberal–National Coalition

Financial security

Disability Support Pension

The legislative instrument that sets out the **Disability Support Pension impairment tables** was originally due to expire on 1 April 2022. The **Morrison Government** commenced consultation last year on the impairment tables, with a view to tabling a new instrument prior to the cessation of the current legislative instrument. However, these consultations were hampered by COVID, and the **Minister for Social Services** and the **Attorney-General** agreed to extend the instrument by 12 months to allow for meaningful consultation with the sector, prior to finalising the updated impairment tables legislative instrument. This consultation is ongoing and will further inform any changes to the impairment tables ahead of their expiry on 1 April 2023.

BasicsCard, Cashless Debit Cards and all forms of compulsory income management

The **Morrison Government** has committed to income management in the existing sites, which are communities which sought to have the program established.

Income management tools have been operating in selected locations for about 15 years and have been ensuring at-risk children have got food in the fridge and clothes to go to school.

About a dozen reviews of income management have consistently shown that welfare-quarantining measures have a positive impact on participants and the community.

A **University of Adelaide** evaluation found 25% of people reported they are drinking less, 21% of **Cashless Debit Card** participants reported gambling less and 45% of participants reported the Cashless Debit Card had improved their ability to manage the family budget.

The government has made clear that it will not extend the Cashless Debit Card to pensioners.

Employment

The **Morrison Government** recognises people with disability have much to offer employers but often face unique barriers to employment. We also know that getting a job and having a job is a gamechanger in everybody's life and it shouldn't be any different for a person with disability. That is why the Morrison Government is focused on improving employment opportunities for people with disability and supporting increased economic participation.

Late last year, the Morrison Government launched **Employ My Ability – the national disability employment strategy**. This strategy sits underneath **Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031** and indicates our commitment to changing the employment landscape for people with disability. Working closely with **Dylan Alcott** and **Simon McKeon**, the strategy takes a practical and positive approach by focusing on people's ability rather than disability. The government has already made significant investments in the delivery of **Employ My Ability** and in reforming **Disability Employment Services**.

For participants on the NDIS, the longer they are in the scheme the better the outcome. For those in the scheme two years, 20% are currently employed. This increases to 23% for those who have been in the scheme for five years. For families and carers of participants aged to 14, there were improvements in the proportion that have a paid job the longer the participant has been on the scheme, with an increase of 10 percentage points over four years (from 43% to 53%).

The **NDIS Participant Employment Strategy** was launched in 2019, and sets out the Morrison Government's vision, commitment and plan to support NDIS participants to find and keep a job.

Labor Party

Labor has committed to addressing poor employment outcomes for Australians with disability with our goal of full employment, which would address barriers to people with disability working as many hours as they want, at a wage they can live on, and contributing to their full potential. Labor's **White Paper on Full Employment** will plot a path for government to reduce unemployment and underemployment rates, particularly among vulnerable groups, and keep them low.

Labor is proposing to establish a centre for excellence in disability employment to provide a clearing house for ideas and increase capacity among employment services, so that more Australians with a disability can secure long-term positions in open employment.

It is unacceptable that the numbers of people with disability in jobs and **National Disability Insurance Scheme** participants with employment goals in their plans has gone backwards. Labor will work with participants and people with disability to fix the NDIS and make the **National Disability Strategy 2010–2020** accountable, to ensure real action on employment outcomes.



Senator Jordan Steele-John Australian Greens

The Australian Greens have announced an election policy to **provide a guaranteed liveable income**. That would set a higher rate for multiple income support payments, including the **Disability Support Pension**, to ensure the payment remains above the **Henderson Poverty Line**. The Australian Greens support changes that would make the DSP genuinely accessible, including providing lifelong access and fixing the DSP impairment tables.

The Australian Greens strongly oppose **BasicsCard** and **Cashless Debit Cards**, and all compulsory income management. The Greens will remove all punitive measures from our social security system including mutual obligations and the targeted compliance framework, the

Cashless Debit Card, Basics Card, **Work for the Dole**, **ParentsNext**, and exploitative youth employment programs like **Youth Jobs PaTH**. These requirements serve no purpose except to punish people living in poverty.

The Australian Greens are committed to removing the barriers that stop disabled people from living a good life, fix the systems that are meant to support them, and eliminate the structural discrimination they face. This includes ensuring disabled people's physical and digital worlds are accessible, including by establishing a new \$3 billion accessible infrastructure fund and championing inclusive employment by establishing a 20 per cent quota for full disabled employee representation in the **Australian Public Service** by 2030.

Rebekha Sharkie Centre Alliance

I will continue to urge that all social security payments, including the **Disability Support Pension**, are set at levels which keep up with the cost of living and allow for people to live with dignity. If re-elected I would seek briefings from the government of the day and input from people with disability and advocates regarding any proposal to alter access to the Disability Support Pension. During my term to date as Federal Member for Mayo, I have called for an independent social security commission to be established to review and ensure adequacy of all social security payments. During 2020 I also voted against making the **Cashless Debit Card** permanent in the **House of Representatives**.

Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi

I have strongly opposed the **Cashless welfare card** in all its forms and will continue to do so.

Andrew Wilkie

- Firstly, government pensions and payments including the **Disability Support Pension** must be increased to levels that people can actually live on. Secondly, I agree that barriers to accessing the DSP must be removed. The DSP is currently far too difficult to qualify for and applications take too long. It requires reports from GPs, specialists and psychiatrists and numerous assessments by **Centrelink's** own medical team. This is made even more difficult by the challenge of securing an appointment with a specialist.
- I agree that compulsory income management must never be indiscriminately applied to Centrelink recipients, and have spoken out against **Cashless Debit Cards**.
- I agree there is an urgent need for more effective pathways to employment that are co-designed with people with disability and take into account the needs of all people with a disability. Without adequate financial support from Centrelink and well-designed pathways to employment, too many people with disabilities experience segregation and are pushed into poverty.

Inclusive homes and communities



The commitments we're seeking

- Address the urgent issues within housing, including the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** homes-and-living supports such as **Specialist Disability Accommodation** and **Supported Independent Living**.
- Commit to the recommendations in our Disabled People's Organisation Australia **Segregation Position Statement** on segregation of people with disability.
- Invest in accessible, affordable and contemporary social housing.

Liberal–National Coalition

Housing for people with disability

Safe, affordable and suitable housing enhances the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of all Australians, including people with disability. However, people with disability continue to face significant barriers in accessing appropriate housing.

The **National Disability Insurance Scheme** was established as a shared endeavour, as agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories when the scheme was established. For the significant portion of Australians with disability the primary housing response is provided by state and territory governments. At the December 2021 and March 2022 **Disability Reform Ministers** meeting, ministers agreed to develop options to improve the supply of affordable and appropriate mainstream housing and NDIS funded accommodation for people with disability.

The Commonwealth already provides substantial funding to support the provision of affordable housing and homelessness services. In 2021–22, the

Commonwealth expects to spend around \$9.3 billion to help improve housing and homelessness outcomes, including around \$5.3 billion in **Commonwealth Rent Assistance** to help eligible Australians on welfare payments pay their rent, and around \$1.6 billion to the states and territories through the **National Housing and Homelessness Agreement**. This is in addition to housing supports provided through the NDIS.

The **Productivity Commission** is currently undertaking a review of the agreement, and will engage extensively with the states and territories as well as other stakeholders in conducting its review and will consider a broad range of issues, including **Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031**.

NDIS-funded housing

Only a small proportion of people with disability will be eligible for **Specialist Disability Accommodation** (SDA) or other housing supports through the NDIS.

The government established the **SDA Roundtable** in April 2021. It includes representatives from the **National Disability Insurance Agency**,

SDA Alliance, SDA investors, and SDA providers to identify key issues impacting the SDA market and sector, and work with the agency to develop shared solutions. While there is more to do, significant progress has already been made in rebuilding confidence and encouraging the SDA market to flourish.

Of significance, in line with requests from the SDA sector, the government has announced that the NDIA will bring forward the review of the **Specialist Disability Accommodation Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits 2021–22**. By bringing forward the review, the SDA sector will have greater insight into pricing limit changes well ahead of the 1 July 2023 implementation and encourage continued investment into new SDA construction. This will be welcomed by SDA Alliance members across the country.

The government supports the need to continue to reduce decision-making timeframes wherever possible, which is why the **Morrison Government** committed to introducing the **Participant Service Guarantee** and **Participant Service Charter**. From April 2022, the NDIA will also be implementing a number of home and living reforms which will reduce red tape, and remove a number of practical and administrative concerns participants and providers have raised, to ensure it's easier for participants to access home and living supports.

The Morrison Government also recently announced the **Making SIL Better project** which is a commitment from the NDIA to improve how they deliver **Supported Independent Living** supports to participants. These immediate improvements are in response to feedback from participants, providers and the disability sector.

In addition, the NDIA is looking to the future and working with SIL providers to explore, test and inform innovative models of service delivery through **home and living demonstration projects**.

This innovative approach is aimed at bringing together participants and providers to design and deliver contemporary ways for participants to pursue their home and living goals.

The NDIA is also establishing clearer information on **individualised living options for participants and providers**. These options assist participants to choose the home they live in and set up supports in the way that suits them. For example, sharing a home with family, friends, partners or housemates, or living with a host.

The Morrison Government is committed to ensuring people with disability have the supports they need and the flexibility to choose where and how they want to live.

Labor Party

An **Albanese Labor government** will help more people buy a home sooner by cutting the cost of buying a home by up to 40 per cent, in addition to our plan for a regional first home buyer support scheme, housing Australia future fund, restoring funding for homelands and improving remote housing, and a national housing supply and affordability council.

Labor will pause the current changes to **NDIS Supported Independent Living** (SIL) that are being progressed by the Morrison Government without proper consultation, and investigate the \$500 million **Specialist Disability Accommodation** (SDA) underspend to ensure people with disability can access appropriate housing.

Senator Jordan Steele-John Australian Greens

The Australian Greens recognise that discrimination and ableism are manifested through segregation. We are supportive of the **Segregation Position Statement**.

The Greens will:

- ensure the implementation of the **Liveable Housing Australia (LHA) Silver standard** now codified in the **National Construction Code** across all jurisdictions;
- build one million fully accessible public and community homes under the **federal Housing Trust**
- invest in accessible housing solutions to ensure availability of high-quality **Specialist Disability Accommodation** and transitional housing options to ensure disabled people aren't forced into residential aged care.

Rebekha Sharkie Centre Alliance

I remain committed to supporting a robust and properly funded **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**, which includes **Specialist Disability Accommodation** and **Supported**

Independent Living, as one of Australia's most significant social policies. People with disability are important members of and contributors to our community and I acknowledge that people should if needed be supported to make their own decisions. I warned the **House of Representatives** in March 2021 of an impending tsunami related to housing security and affordability and expressed concern at the ageing out of homes from the **National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)**. My policy position is that federal, state and territory governments should work together to urgently develop a new national housing strategy which properly reflects the needs of regional communities and all vulnerable Australians.

Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi

We need to make sure that, especially in regional communities, everyone has access to safe and accessible housing that meets their needs. I have supported greater investments in affordable and accessible housing for the regions. As always, I will be guided by my local constituents and disability groups on any changes proposed to the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



Andrew Wilkie

- I am committed to urgently addressing the need for improved access to **NDIS homes-and-living supports** such as Specialist Disability Accommodation and Supported Independent Living.
- I am committed to the recommendations in the Disabled People's **Organisation Australia Segregation Position Statement**. Australia needs an employment strategy that helps workers with disability move to open employment, and accessible and inclusive housing and education. Substitute decision-making must also be replaced with supported decision-making.
- There is significant pressure on housing affordability and accessibility and we need all levels of government to get serious about fixing the problem. The housing crisis needs a holistic solution including more public, social, supported and crisis accommodation, increased **Commonwealth Rent Assistance** and tax reform.

Safety, rights and justice



The commitments we're seeking

- Implement the recommendations from the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**, including the interim recommendations of the **Disability Royal Commission**.
- Implement the recommendations of the **Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety**.
- Implement the recommendations from the **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**.

Liberal–National Coalition

The **Morrison Government** established the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**. This comes with a commitment of more than \$500 million in funding so that we can look into the experiences of people with disability and develop solutions to ensure we protect those who are most vulnerable.

The government will consider the report of the royal commission once it has concluded its work and respond in due course.

In relation to recommendation 74 of the **Royal Commission into Aged Care, Quality and Safety**, the government is committed to meeting the **Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) targets** announced on 25 November 2019. The government is working towards these (YPIRAC) targets through the implementation of the **Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25**.

Labor Party

Labor fought for the establishment of the **Disability Royal Commission** and for amendments to guarantee privacy protections for people with disability wanting to share their story in the inquiry. Labor also pushed for an extended reporting date to allow for proper examination of the issues facing people with disability in Australia. If elected, Labor will respond to the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission when it delivers its final report in 2023.

Senator Jordan Steele-John Australian Greens

Senator Jordon Steele-John, as a disabled person, was instrumental in securing a **interim Disability Royal Commission** after years of the **Australian Greens** campaigning for one.

The Australian Greens support all the recommendations of the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**, as well as their interim report recommendations of the **Disability Royal Commission**.

The Greens strongly support the majority of recommendations made by the **Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety**. However, in some areas they didn't go far enough, or the commissioners presented different options:

- We strongly support a new **Aged Care Act** being in place by July 2023 that guarantees universal access to high-quality, safe and timely support and care.
- We prefer the government leadership model proposed by Commissioner Briggs that maintains the role of government leadership, with greater independence in quality regulation and pricing. We believe this model will provide better ministerial oversight compared to the independent commission model.
- The Royal Commission recommended minimum hours of care be introduced (200 minutes in 2022, 215 minutes in 2023). We support this but believe it should go further and be increased to 258 minutes of care (4 hours 18 minutes) with a registered nurse rostered on 24/7.
- We support the introduction of a single aged care program and assessment process.
- We believe the commissioners didn't go far enough when it comes to restrictive practices in aged care. We support the elimination of physical and chemical restraints in aged care, except in cases where they are used for their intended therapeutic purpose.

The Greens were proud to work closely with the Gillard government to build the **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse** and continue to advocate for greater protections for at-risk children and support for survivors of child sex abuse. The Australian Greens support the recommendations of the royal commission.

Rebekha Sharkie Centre Alliance

I have consistently called for royal commission recommendations to be implemented. I have urged the government to implement the recommendations of the **Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety**, including recommendation 72 that people who acquire a disability after the age of 65 years should have access to NDIS-equivalent supports. I support implementation of recommendations of the **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse** to better protect children, including children with disability, against sexual abuse and address or alleviate the impact of abuse. While the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability** has not yet delivered any recommendations, I am supportive of its examination of emerging themes, barriers, key issues and areas for further inquiry as identified in the commission's **Interim Report**.



Zali Steggall Independent MP – Warringah

Key healthcare policies and initiatives that I support (include improved) safety and standards in aged care.

Implement the recommendations of the **Aged Care Royal Commission**, support flexible funding options for home care, and increase accountability and resources in aged care facilities.

Implementation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care recommendations has been a key issue ... since it was handed down in March 2021.

I continue to call on the government to eliminate the **Home Care Package** waitlist immediately and keep it clear.

For residential care, there needs to be a dramatic improvement in the standard of care that is able to be provided to residents, most notably by increasing the number and quality of staff.

We need equality between the standard of care provided under the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** and aged care. At present NDIS is significantly more generous in the standards of care provided than if someone acquires a disability after the age of 65.

Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi

I support the full implementation of the **recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety** and the **interim recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**.

Andrew Wilkie

- I am committed to the implementation of the recommendations from the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**, including the **interim recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission**.
- I am committed to the implementation of the **Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety** recommendations and have spoken in support of this in parliament. The recommendations are an opportunity for real reform with a clear blueprint for how to achieve it.
- I am committed to the implementation of the recommendations from the **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**.

Personal and community support via the NDIS



The commitments we're seeking

- Commit to full and transparent co-design processes for any planned or proposed changes to the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**, including planned or proposed legislation.
- Remove barriers to accessing the NDIS for marginalised communities, especially migrants and refugees, and ensure people with disability who are not able to access the NDIS, are able to do so.

Liberal–National Coalition

The **Morrison Government** is committed to **National Disability Insurance Scheme co-design**, demonstrated through legislative amendments to the **National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013** in March 2022. This amendment has strengthened the principles of the Act to acknowledge the central role of people with disability in co-design and the need to respect and recognise the relationship between people with disability and their families and carers. Co-design will be a meaningful, joint collaboration with participants, their carers and families to understand and address the continued improvement of the scheme.

The Morrison Government is committed to ensuring all eligible Australians have equitable access to the NDIS, particularly **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people with disability**, and other people who have trouble accessing the NDIS.

In 2022, the National Disability Insurance Agency will be reviewing both the **ATSI** and **CALD** strategies, in line with

co-design principles, to ensure that the way in which the NDIA engages with these communities is appropriate, and meets their needs.

Labor Party

Labor will ensure a better future for the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** by putting people with disability back at the centre of the scheme. Labor will identify and solve the problems with the design and operation of the scheme, ensuring solutions are evidence based and are codesigned with people with disability, their families and carers, and service providers and workers. Labor is promising to share governance and make all proposed changes to the scheme transparent to rebuild trust between the NDIS and the people who rely on it for support. Labor will increase the number of people with disability on the **National Disability Insurance Agency executive and board** so that the voice and experience of participants is returned to the scheme. We will also appoint a senior officer within the NDIA to tackle the barriers to service delivery in remote areas of Australia and other areas.

Senator Jordan Steele-John Australian Greens

The Greens are committed to creating a properly funded, staffed and resourced **National Disability Insurance Scheme** that is transparent, consultative and accountable.

The Greens will:

- remove the staffing cap and ensure that staff receive high-quality, ongoing training and support
- ensure the IT systems and interfaces for participants and service providers are fit for purpose and fully accessible
- ensure the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** is properly resourced to undertake its compliance and investigative capacity through an immediate investment of \$300 million
- push to remove the age limit that prevents people over 65 from being accepted in the NDIS
- boost NDIS funding and reinvest into the NDIS the \$160 million the Morrison Government committed to corporations as part of their failed attempt to roll out independent assessments.

Senators Pauline Hanson and Malcolm Roberts, Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party

The cost of the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** has increased substantially since its inception to an estimated investment of \$33.9 billion budgeted for 2022–23.

On its current trajectory the NDIS will cost an estimated \$60 billion a year by the end of the decade.

It is imperative that the NDIS remain a sustainable scheme for those Australians who meet its intended purpose and rely upon it for a decent quality of life.

If this is to occur, it is important that expenditure on unnecessary administrative costs and fees is pared back to essentials only. We hope that a reduction in the administrative burden will lead to more money being made available for people with disabilities.

We certainly will continue to call out services and overheads which cannot be justified.

Rebekha Sharkie Centre Alliance

If re-elected I will continue to advocate for the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** to work with and support Australians living with disability to live their best lives. This would include genuine consultation with people with disability and advocates regarding future changes to the NDIS proposed by whomever forms government. I heard from many constituents and advocates during consideration of **proposed independent assessments** in 2021 and raised their concerns with the government. I have advocated for removal of barriers to accessing the NDIS including recently highlighting the unjust exclusion of people who acquire their disability once they have turned 65. I have also spoken to the growing number of applications to the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal** in relation to NDIS decisions and remain concerned about the increasing cost in human terms to participants and legal costs incurred by the NDIS.

Zali Steggall Independent MP – Warringah

Key healthcare policies and initiatives that I support (include improved) access to (the) **National Disability Insurance Scheme** for participants and advisers.

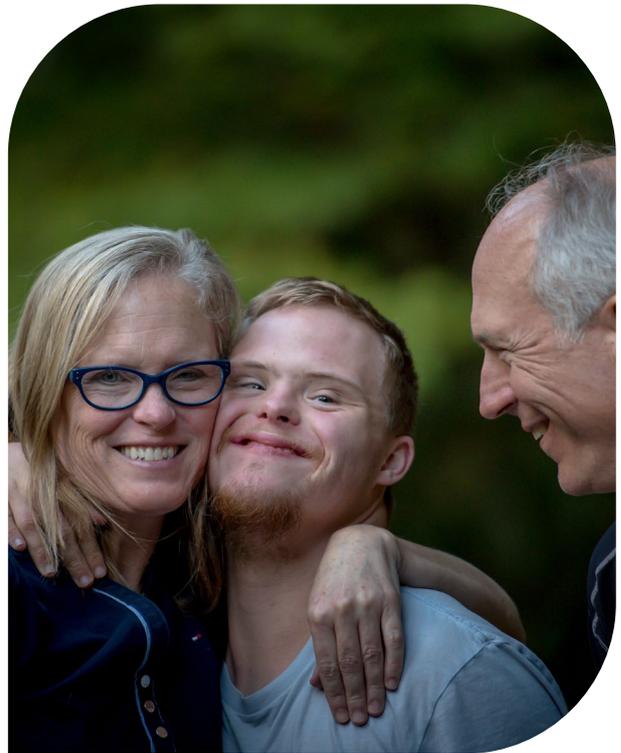
The NDIS is a fantastic support to those living with disability in Australia. I strongly support the NDIS and advocate for improved ease of access to the supports required.

Policies and actions we need to improve access to the NDIS (include): reforms to support the original goals of the scheme; access to the NDIS for (the) disability community; (and) improvements to the service standards for the benefit of participants.

I will support the implementation of the **Tune Review** and in particular the **Participant Service Guarantee** in a manner that genuinely supports the participants.

Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi

I support the full implementation of the **recommendations of the Tune Review**. I worked with my local constituents to develop a detailed submission to the Tune Review. We need a **National Disability Insurance Scheme** that works better for participants, which gives people more control and choice, and which delivers the supports that people need.



Andrew Wilkie

I am committed to full and transparent co-design processes for any planned or proposed changes to the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**, including legislation. I keep a close eye on NDIS developments and was deeply concerned about the proposed independent assessments, which were thankfully scrapped. The NDIS is an insurance scheme, not a welfare program, and NDIS participants must enjoy more flexibility with their plans and participation in decision-making. I will continue to hold the government to account on this issue.

Barriers that prevent marginalised communities from accessing the NDIS must be removed. For example I have lobbied the government to stop discriminating against older Australians by expanding the scheme to cover Australians aged over 65. It is shameful and avoidable that a young person with a disability is eligible for the NDIS, while an older person is condemned to a poorer quality of life.

Education and learning



The commitments we're seeking

- Implement the **Driving Change: A roadmap for achieving inclusive education in Australia** developed by the **Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education**.

Liberal–National Coalition

Implement the **Driving Change: A roadmap for achieving inclusive education in Australia** developed by the **Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education**.

Labor Party

An **Albanese Labor government** will establish an independent review into **National Disability Insurance Scheme funding for students with disability** with a particular focus on the intersection with school funding for adjustment under the **Disability Standards for Education 2005**. Improving inclusion of students with disability, Labor will consider the need for a review of the Disability Standards and a national inclusive education strategy.

Senator Jordan Steele-John Australian Greens

The Australian Greens will transition to a fully inclusive education system, in support of the **Inclusive Education Pledge**, by:

- investing an initial \$10 million over four years to co-design a national inclusive education transition plan with disabled people, families, disability representative organisations, teachers and their unions, and education experts

- building inclusive education into tertiary qualifications and giving all pre-service and in-service teachers and principals the opportunity to train, retrain and regularly upskill in inclusive education practices by investing \$400 million over four years.

Rebekha Sharkie Centre Alliance

If re-elected I would be keen to consider proposals from whomever forms government to implement the roadmap for inclusive education in consultation with people living with disability as well as the disability and education sectors.

Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi

As a former rural health researcher, I value access to education extremely highly. It is well known that not all Australians have equal access to the opportunities that education presents – this is especially true for Australians from rural and regional Australia, Indigenous Australians, and people with disability. We need to do better at making all educational settings inclusive for people with disabilities.



Andrew Wilkie

I recognise there are barriers standing in the way of students with disability accessing inclusive education. I have heard many accounts from constituents of children with disability facing discrimination and bullying. I support implementation of the **Driving Change: A roadmap for achieving inclusive education in Australia.**

Community attitudes



The commitments we're seeking

- Co-design and develop a national anti-ableism campaign to address ableism, negative attitudes, discrimination, misconceptions and bias against people with disability, including in employment.
- Improve visibility and representation of people with disability through targeted opportunities in all sectors including community organisations, business, politics, media, sports and the arts.

Liberal–National Coalition

The **Morrison Government** will drive the delivery of **Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031** (the strategy). The strategy was developed in close consultation with people within the disability sector spanning a two-year period. Extensive public consultation has reached more than 3000 people with disability, their families, carers and representatives.

The strategy sets out a number of outcome areas, including education and learning. It includes a number of policy priority areas focused on people with disability achieving their full potential through education and learning.

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 is supported by a \$250 million investment by the Morrison Government to break down barriers for the 4.4 million Australians with disability.

The NDIA's **Participant Employment Strategy** also focuses on strengthening the link between education and employment (priority area 2). The NDIA is working closely with state and territory education sectors to allow young participants to

develop skills through age-appropriate work-related activities, which will better prepare them to engage in work experience and develop independent living skills while still at school. Recent changes to the school-leaver employment supports will ensure NDIS participants continue to be supported as they learn new skills outside the schooling sector and move into employment.

The strategy will provide support to people outside the NDIS. With the NDIS supporting 500,000 people who have a significant and permanent disability, the strategy will ensure the focus is back on supporting the almost 4 million other Australians living with disability. With regular public reporting and targeted action plans, the strategy will deliver real outcomes for people with disability.

The Morrison Government is also committed to ensuring people with a disability continue to have access to independent and robust advocacy and legal support services, with an investment of \$73 million over three years, through the **National Disability Advocacy Program** and **NDIS Appeals** program.



The Morrison Government is committed to breaking down social barriers and improving the lives of people with disability in Australia.

Recent changes to the NDIS legislation will require lived experience of disability to be a key consideration in making **NDIA board** appointments. The government appointed a number of people with disability to the NDIA board in December 2021.

Labor Party

Labor will introduce central coordination of disability across government through a **National Disability Strategy** to ensure real action and recognition for all people with a disability in Australia, not just those on the **NDIS**.

Senator Jordan Steele-John Australian Greens

The **Australian Greens** are committed to ensuring that ableism is targeted and addressed in our society. We believe in the **social model of disability**, which states that it is the barriers in society that need to be addressed, rather than the individual. Disability is defined by the way that society is organised, rather than by an individual's impairment. Providing solutions that are centred on these barriers in society are crucial to improving their ability to thrive and contribute to their communities in a meaningful, positive and equal manner. The social model acknowledges that ableism exists and constantly enforces the barriers that autistic and neurodiverse people face. When combined with the affirmative model, which embraces disability as an identity, it celebrates the contribution that neurodiverse and autistic people make to society, with an assertion of their right to have that contribution and their humanity recognised separate to that of their families.

Our **Accessible Australia policies** are based on this knowledge and we will support a national anti-ableism campaign to address ableism in society.

Senators Pauline Hanson and Malcolm Roberts, Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party

Advocacy organisations such as **People with Disability Australia** are valued for the role you play in championing and celebrating people with disability.

Rebekha Sharkie Centre Alliance

If re-elected I would be keen to consider proposals from whomever forms government to improve representation of people with disability in all sectors and reduce ableism in our community.

Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi

As a former researcher, I highly value evidence-based policy. That means listening to our local community here in **Indi**, and to experts in civil society. Should specific proposals for a campaign relating to people with disabilities come across my desk, as on all issues I will be listening to my community to determine my position.

Andrew Wilkie

I fully support:

- the co-design of a national anti-ableism campaign to address ableism, negative attitudes, discrimination, misconceptions and bias against people with disability, including employment
- improving the visibility and representation of people with disability through targeted opportunities in all sectors, including community organisations, business, politics, media, sports and the arts.

Contact information

We welcome enquires and feedback about our 2022 Federal Election Platform from our members, supporters and sector partners.

To discuss any relevant issues, please contact our policy team:

- policy@pwda.org.au
- 02 9370 3100

PWDA contacts

Phone 02 9370 3100

Toll Free 1800 422 015

Fax 02 9318 1372

Email pwd@pwd.org.au

Post PO Box 666, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Office Level 8, 418A Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Website pwd.org.au

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of overlapping blue and green shapes.

A voice
of our
own