



**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY  
AUSTRALIA**

2025 Federal Election Platform

# Community Activation Kit



**Vote for  
Disability Rights  
in 2025**



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# A message from People with Disability Australia (PWDA) President Trinity Ford

**Politics is about power—who has it, who uses it, and who gets left behind. Too often, people with disability have been ignored in decisions that shape our lives. In 2025, we can change that.**

**We are voters, and we decide elections.**

With 5.5 million people with disability in Australia—and millions of family, friends and allies—we are a force candidates can't ignore.

NDIS funding must be secured, foundational supports must be consistently available and income support payments must cover the true cost of disability without pushing us into poverty. We need accessible housing, stronger human rights protections including for LGBTIQ+ people with disability, better representation in government and an inclusive public sector. These aren't luxuries—they're necessities.

We're not asking for favours. We're demanding what is rightfully ours: a seat at the table, a say in our future and policies that genuinely improve our lives.

That's why we've created this Community Activation Kit to help you take action to ensure the solutions that matter most to people with disability are centre stage this Federal Election.

**Our rights matter.**

**Our inclusion is not optional.**

**Our votes count.**

**Let's make change happen!**



**Trinity Ford, President**

People with Disability Australia



**Our votes matter.  
Let's make change  
happen.**

# PWDA's Federal Election Agenda

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**We're calling on all political parties and candidates to take real action for people with disability. PWDA's Federal Election Agenda sets out the policies that must be prioritised to protect our rights and progress our full inclusion.**

This agenda has been built on the voices and insights from our national membership and consultation with the broader disability community.

## **Invest in the NDIS**

Guarantee long-term, sustainable funding, ensure participant control over our supports and prevent cost-cutting that restricts access to essential supports.

## **Fund Nationally Consistent Foundational Supports**

Ensure disability supports outside the NDIS are consistently available and delivered. These supports are essential not optional for the 5.5 million Australians with disability, including the nearly 5 million who aren't on the NDIS.

## **Raise the Rate**

Increase income support payments, including the Disability Support Pension (DSP) and JobSeeker, to above the poverty line so people with disability can afford the cost of living and achieve financial security. Increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance to cover the real cost of accessible housing.

## **Make Housing Accessible**

Mandate the "Livable Housing Design Silver Standard" in the National Construction Code across all states and territories and commit to a national housing plan that meets the needs of people with disability.

## **Ensure Disability Representation in Government**

Create a Minister for Disability Inclusion in Federal Cabinet and establish a dedicated Department of Disability Equality and Inclusion.

## **Protect Our Human Rights**

Strengthen disability rights through a Human Rights Act and improvements to the Disability Discrimination Act. Fully fund individual and systemic advocacy services so people with disability can protect and enforce their rights.

## **Support Diversity in the Public Sector**

Increase employment of people with disability and safeguard diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in government workplaces.

[\[Read PWDA's full Federal Election Platform here\]](#)

# How to use this kit

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This kit is designed to help you take action on the issues that matter most to people with disability in the 2025 Federal Election. Follow these steps to get involved:

✓ **Take the pledge:**

Commit to voting for disability rights.

✓ **Convince others to vote disability:**

Use our advocacy talking points to educate friends, family and allies on why disability rights must be a priority at the ballot box.

✓ **Engage candidates:**

Ask politicians what their views are on disability issues.

✓ **Spread the word:**

Use our social media toolkit to amplify the message.

✓ **Demand election accessibility:**

Report any issues with voting accessibility.

✓ **Join PWDA:**

Stay engaged beyond the election, be part of our advocacy efforts and help drive long-term change for disability rights and inclusion.



# Your vote matters

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**In 2025, Australians will vote on our country's future. For people with disability, this is our chance to put disability rights front and centre and show all candidates our views and our votes matter.**

We are 5.5 million strong. We are a powerful voting bloc demanding real action—on our rights, services and full inclusion.

- **150 seats** in the House of Representatives
- **40 seats** in the Senate
- **Millions of votes** that can't be ignored.

This is our moment. Let's make 2025 the Federal Election where the issues that matter most to people with disability can't be overlooked.



# Take the pledge: Vote for disability rights

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I pledge to vote for a future where people with disability are heard, valued, and included—where our rights, services, and financial security are protected, and where politicians are held accountable to our community.

- ✓ By pledging to vote, I commit to supporting policies that secure the NDIS, fund nationally consistent foundational supports, raise income support, ensure accessible housing, and ensure people with disability are represented in government and the public sector.

**Take the pledge now**



# Advocacy talking points:

## Key issues

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Equip yourself with key messages to use when speaking to candidates, the media, or your community.



### 1. Invest in the NDIS

#### Talking Points:

- The NDIS is not just providing life-changing support to people with disability—it's an investment that benefits the whole economy. Every \$1 invested returns \$2.25.
- Cutting NDIS funding means more hospital visits, fewer jobs, and higher long-term costs for the government.
- People with disability are active members of our communities, workplaces and economy. Investing in the NDIS makes sure we can fully participate.
- People with disability must stay in control of their supports—when people with disability choose our own supports, we achieve better outcomes in work, study and life.
- The government must commit to long-term, sustainable funding for the NDIS, stop harmful cost-cutting and protect participant choice and control.

#### What to ask politicians:

Will you commit to fully funding the NDIS and protecting participant choice and control?



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## 2. Fund Nationally Consistent Foundational Supports

### Talking Points:

- Right now, being able to access essential supports depends on whether you're on the NDIS or not.
- Nearly 5 million Australians with disability don't qualify for the NDIS—but we still need access to services like community support, peer networks, and assistive technology.
- Disability supports outside the NDIS are essential, not optional.
- The government must guarantee national funding for Foundational Supports. These supports must be co-designed with people with disability, so we get them right.
- Foundational Supports need to be consistently delivered nationwide and available to everyone, no matter their postcode. Where you live shouldn't decide whether you can access essential supports.

#### What to ask politicians:

Will you commit to fully funding Foundational Supports and ensuring they are available consistently nationwide? These services are essential not optional and should be accessible to all people with disability, no matter where they live.

## 3. Raise the Rate of Income Support Payments

### Talking Points:

- People with disability have a right to financial security so we can study, work, and fully participate in our communities.
- No one should have to choose between rent, food, and medication. The Disability Support Pension (DSP) is below the poverty line. It must increase so people with disability can afford the cost of living and the extra costs of disability like accessible housing, transport, assistive technology and healthcare.
- JobSeeker is even lower, but 43% of people on JobSeeker have a disability—it's impossible to live on.
- People with disability face higher housing costs – accessible homes close to transport, healthcare, and support services are more expensive. Current Commonwealth Rent Assistant Payments are not enough. A 60% increase for people with disability will make housing more affordable and reduce financial stress.
- When people with disability have enough income, we can contribute to our communities and afford a decent life.
- Raising income support above the poverty line isn't just fair—it's smart policy that reduces long-term costs in healthcare and housing.

#### What to ask politicians:

Will you commit to raising the rate of income support payments to cover the cost of living with disability and to be above the poverty line?

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## 4. Make Housing Accessible

### Talking Points:

- Safe, affordable, accessible housing is a human right—but there aren't enough homes that meet disability needs.
- Only 5% of new homes meet accessibility standards, making it nearly impossible for people with disability to find a place to live.
- The government must Mandate the “Livable Housing Design Silver Standard” in the National Construction Code across all states and territories and build more affordable, accessible housing.
- Accessible housing helps everyone—people with disability, older Australians, and families. When you build for people with disability you build for everyone.
- The government must mandate national accessibility standards for housing so all new homes are built for everyone.
- We need a national housing plan for people with disability, with clear targets for accessible social and affordable housing.
- More investment in independent, accessible social housing will ensure people with disability have real choices about where we live.

### What to ask politicians:

Will you mandate the National Construction Code's “Livable Housing Design Silver Standard” across all states and territories and commit to a national housing plan that ensures people with disability have access to safe, affordable, and accessible homes?

## 5. Ensure Disability Representation in Government

### Talking Points:

- People with disability are leaders, policy experts and decision-makers—we need a voice at the highest levels of government.
- States and territories already have a Minister for Disability—it's time for the Federal Government to do the same.
- A Minister for Disability Inclusion and a dedicated Department of Disability Equality and Inclusion would make sure disability policies, programs and reforms are coordinated and effective. They would oversee key disability related policy such as Australia's Disability Strategy and intergovernmental responses to the Disability Royal Commission and NDIS Review.
- Having people with disability in leadership leads to better policies and outcomes.

### What to ask politicians:

Will you commit to a Minister for Disability Inclusion and a Department of Disability Equality and Inclusion to make sure our voices are heard in government?

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## 6. Protect Our Human Rights

### Talking Points:

- Australia has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—but our laws don't fully protect or enforce our rights.
- The Disability Royal Commission showed shocking violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation—stronger laws are needed to stop this from happening again.
- There must be consequences when our rights are violated—and ways to fix the harm caused.
- The government must pass stronger disability rights laws through a Human Rights Act, improve the Disability Discrimination Act and fund independent systemic and individual advocacy services.

### What to ask politicians:

Will you support a Human Rights Act, improvements to the Disability Discrimination Act and fully fund systemic and individual advocacy services so people with disability can enforce and defend their rights?

## 7. Support Diversity in the Public Sector

### Talking Points:

- People with disability bring valuable skills, insights, and leadership to the workforce.
- The Australian Public Service (APS) employs fewer people with disability than it should—especially in leadership roles.
- A diverse public sector leads to stronger decision-making, better policies, and more inclusive services.
- Hiring and promoting people with disability in government benefits all Australians by improving public service delivery.
- The government must increase employment targets for people with disability in the public sector.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs must be protected so the APS can achieve these targets and meet its obligations as a model employer.

### What to ask politicians:

How will you increase disability employment in the public sector and protect Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs?

# Contacting candidates

Ensure the issues that matter most to people with disability are on their agenda by reaching out to candidates in your electorate.

## Why contact candidates?

Election candidates need to know that people with disability's votes matter. By contacting them, you help put our key issues on their agenda. You can influence policies and commitments before they are elected.

## Steps to take:

### 1 Find your candidates:

Use resources like the [Australian Electoral Commission \(AEC\) website](#) and the [Parliament of Australia website](#) to identify who is running in your electorate.

### 2 Make contact:

Email, call, or meet candidates at community forums and events.

### 3 Use key messages:

Make your message clear by focusing on PWDA's Federal Election Agenda.



## Questions to ask candidates

If speaking to a candidate in person or at an event, you can ask:

- Will you invest in and protect the NDIS?
- Will you fully fund Foundational Supports and ensure states and territories deliver them consistently?
- Do you support increasing the rates of income support payments, including the Disability Support Pension, JobSeeker and Commonwealth Rent Assistance?
- What is your plan to make housing more accessible?
- Will you support appointing a Minister for Disability Inclusion and establish a Department of Disability Equality and Inclusion?
- Will you support a Human Rights Act and fully fund independent systemic and individual advocacy services?
- How will you increase employment and leadership opportunities for people with disability in the public sector?

**Let's ensure every candidate knows that people with disability's rights and inclusion is a priority!**

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## Sample email/message template:

### **Subject: Your Commitment to People with Disability in the 2025 Election**

Dear [Candidate's Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a [person with disability/family member/ally] living in [Electorate]. As you campaign for the upcoming Federal Election, I want to know if we can count on you to advocate for the rights, economic security and full inclusion of people with disability.

People with disability make up 5.5 million Australians. We are a powerful voting bloc, and we expect our next government to commit to policies that improve our lives.

I support the key priorities People with Disability Australia (PWDA) has outlined for the 2025 election:

1. **Invest in the NDIS** – Secure long-term funding, keep participants in control of their supports and stop harmful cost-cutting that limits access to essential supports.
2. **Fund Nationally Consistent Foundational Supports** – Make sure disability supports outside the NDIS are available everywhere. These services aren't optional—they're essential for the 5.5 million Australians with disability, including the nearly 5 million who aren't on the NDIS.
3. **Raise the Rate** – Lift income support payments, like the Disability Support Pension (DSP) and JobSeeker, above the poverty line so people with disability can afford the cost of living and achieve financial security. Increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance to cover the real cost of accessible housing.
4. **Make Housing Accessible** – Mandate the “Livable Housing Design Silver Standard” in the National Construction Code across all states and territories and commit to a national housing plan that meets the needs of people with disability.
5. **Ensure Disability Representation in Government** – Create a Minister for Disability Inclusion in Federal Cabinet and establish a dedicated Department of Disability Equality and Inclusion.

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**Sample email/message template continued:**

6. **Protect Our Human Rights** – Strengthen disability rights through a Human Rights Act and improvements to the Disability Discrimination Act. Fully fund individual and systemic advocacy services so people with disability can protect and enforce their rights.
7. **Support Diversity in the Public Sector** – Increase employment of people with disability and safeguard diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in federal public sector workplaces.

I'd love to know your views on these issues. Will you commit to supporting these policies to ensure people with disability's rights are protected and progress our full social and economic inclusion?

I look forward to your response. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

# Social media toolkit: Spread the word

Social media is a powerful way to amplify our message and show candidates that disability rights matter. Use this toolkit to share key messages, engage others, and make disability rights a top election issue.

## Hashtags to use

- #VoteDisability2025
- #PWDADecides
- #WeDecide2025



**Our rights matter.  
Our inclusion is not  
optional. Our votes  
count. Let's make  
change happen!**

## Graphics & shareables

- ✓ **Download campaign graphics** and templates.
- ✓ **Share PWDA campaign election graphics** on your social media and with your networks.

## Engagement strategies

- ✓ **Tag your local candidates:**  
Ask them publicly where they stand on disability rights and inclusion.
- ✓ **Start a conversation:**  
Post a personal story about why these policies and disability rights matter to you.
- ✓ **Share PWDA's posts:**  
Amplify our key messages by resharing PWDA's official campaign content.
- ✓ **Encourage your network to pledge:**  
Get your friends, family and allies to take the pledge.

**Let's take over social media with  
our message**

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## Sample social media posts

### Twitter/X/Bluesky:

#### Option 1

In 2025, 5.5 million people with disability—and our allies—are a voting force politicians can't ignore. Pledge your vote for disability rights and demand real change.

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #PWDADecides

#### Option 2

The next government must take real action on disability rights. That means:

- Investing in the NDIS
- Raising the rate of Income Support Payments
- A housing plan for people with disability
- Real representation in government

Are you with us? Sign the pledge!

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #PWDADecides  
#WeDecide2025

#### Option 3

Disability votes count! We are 5.5 million strong and demand change for our rights and inclusion. We need:

- Investment in the NDIS
- Stronger disability rights laws
- Economic security for all people with disability.

Make disability rights a key election issue. Pledge your vote today!

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #WeDecide2025

#### Option 4

I'm voting for disability rights this election—because people with disability deserve policies that meet our needs. Join me and pledge your vote today!

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #PWDADecides  
#WeDecide2025





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## Instagram/Facebook:

### Option 1

Vote for disability rights in 2025. We deserve policies that:

- Protect our rights
- Fund essential supports
- Ensure our full inclusion.

I'm with PWDA! My vote counts, so does yours, let's make change happen.

Take the pledge:

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #WeDecide2025  
#PWDADecides

### Option 2

Vote for disability rights this election. We need leaders who will respect our rights and invest in our future by:

- Investing in the NDIS
- Funding essential supports
- Raising the rate!

I'm with PWDA – because our votes count and we can make change happen.

Sign the pledge and you can too:

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #WeDecide2025  
#PWDADecides

### Option 3

I'm voting for disability rights this election!

With 5.5 million people with disability in Australia, our votes matter! We demand action—on our rights, essential services, and full inclusion.

Sign the pledge and let's make change happen.

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #WeDecide2025  
#PWDADecides

### Option 4

Disability rights are on the ballot in 2025.

This election, we're demanding policies that:

- Invest in the NDIS
- Fund disability supports for all
- Raise DSP & JobSeeker
- Make housing accessible
- Ensure disability leadership in government
- Protect our rights & advocacy
- Safeguard public sector diversity.

Pledge your vote and make change happen!

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

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## LinkedIn:

### Option 1

Our votes count. Our voices matter.

With 5.5 million Australians with disability, we are a powerful voting bloc. This election, we demand:

- Real disability representation in government
- Economic security & fair income support
- A housing system that works for everyone.

We decide our future! Sign the pledge today.

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #WeDecide2025  
#PWDADecides

### Option 2

With 5.5 million people with disability – plus our friends, family and allies – our votes count!

This election, we're demanding policies that support our rights, fund essential services and ensure our full inclusion.

Pledge to vote for disability rights and let's make change happen.

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

#VoteDisability2025 #WeDecide2025  
#PWDADecides

### Option 3

Disability rights must be a priority in the 2025 Federal Election. With 5.5 million people with disability – plus our friends, family and allies – our votes count!

This election we're calling for:

- A fully funded NDIS & Foundational Supports
- Economic security & fair wages for people with disability
- A national housing plan that includes accessible & affordable homes
- A Minister for Disability Inclusion in Cabinet

Pledge to vote for disability rights. Let's make change happen!

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

### Option 4

Vote for disability rights this election. We deserve policies that protect our rights and secure our future. I'm voting to:

- Invest in the NDIS
- Fund Nationally Consistent Foundational Supports
- Raise the Rate
- Make Housing Accessible
- Ensure Disability Representation in Government
- Protect Our Human Rights
- Support Diversity in the Public Sector

Pledge your vote for disability rights and help drive real change.

<https://pwd.org.au/home/2025-federal-election-hub>

/#VoteDisability2025 #WeDecide2025  
#PWDADecides

# Your vote matters in both Houses of Parliament

When you vote in a Federal Election, you receive two ballot papers:

- **The Green Paper** – for the House of Representatives (electing your local Member of Parliament (MP)).
- **The Large White Paper** – for the Senate (electing representatives for your state or territory).

Understanding how both votes work can help you make an informed decision and ensure your voice is heard.

## Voting for the House of Representatives (green paper)

The House of Representatives is where the government is formed. The party (or coalition) that wins the most seats usually forms government.

Each electorate (local area) elects one MP.



Image source: [anao.gov.au](http://anao.gov.au)

## How to vote for the House of Representatives

You can learn more about voting for a member of the House of Representatives on the [Australian Electoral Commission website](http://Australian Electoral Commission website).

On the green House of Representatives Ballot Paper you number each box in the order you like the candidates, starting with 1 for your first choice, 2 for your second, and so on.

Votes are counted using preferential voting. This means if your first-choice candidate is not elected, your vote may still help elect another candidate you prefer.

## Why voting for the House of Representatives matters

- Elects the government – The party with the most seats usually governs.
- Represents your local area – Your MP speaks for your community in Parliament.
- Decides key policies – The government makes laws on health, education the NDIS and more.

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## Voting for the Senate (white paper)

The Senate reviews government decisions, passes laws, and represents different voices. Each state elects 12 Senators, and each territory elects 2 Senators.

### How to vote for the Senate

You can learn more about voting for the Senate on the [Australian Electoral Commission website](#).

On the white Senate Ballot Paper can vote in two ways:

- Above the line – Number at least 6 boxes for parties or groups.
- Below the line – Number at least 12 boxes for individual candidates.

### Why voting for the Senate matters

- Holds the government accountable – The Senate can review and block unfair laws.
- Supports minor parties and independents – Many smaller parties get elected to the Senate.
- Allows you to vote on issues you care about – Your Senate vote can support policies that matter to you.

## How to research candidates

- Research party and candidate policies on the issues that matter most to you, including smaller parties and independents. PWDA will be publishing a scorecard on our priority issues which may be useful.
- See how candidates have voted on key issues. The [Parliament of Australia website](#) can be a useful resource for this.



# Accessible voting

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PWDA works with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and other disability groups to make sure people with disability can fully take part in elections.



Thanks to ongoing advocacy, the AEC has recently made important changes to the law to improve voting access for people with disability and their carers.

It is now easier to apply for General Postal Voting if you:

- Have a disability and cannot travel from your home to a polling place.
- Care for a person with disability (who is not in hospital) and cannot take them to a polling place.

You can find more details and apply for a General Postal Vote here: [AEC General Postal Voting](#).

## More voting support

The AEC provides a range of services to help people with disability enrol, vote, and access information in accessible formats like Easy Read. Find out more here: [AEC Assistance for People with Disability](#).

# Filing a complaint about inaccessible voting

**Voting must be accessible to all. If you experience barriers when trying to vote, you have the right to lodge a complaint.**

## **How to file a complaint:**

- Contact the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to report an accessibility issue. They have links [here](#) to help you lodge a complaint, or find your nearest electoral office. You can also call to complain or provide feedback on 132 326 (which is charged at a similar rate to a local call).
- Document your experience and share it with PWDA to support our advocacy.
- Raise awareness on social media by sharing your experience using #VoteDisability2025.



**Voting must be accessible to all.**

# Join PWDA: Stay engaged beyond the election

The fight for disability rights doesn't stop on election day. Real change takes ongoing advocacy, community action, and pressure on decision-makers.

If you are a person with disability who is aged 18 years+, **you can become a member of People with Disability Australia (PWDA).**

You'll be part of a movement that continues to push for policies that protect and strengthen the rights of people with disability.

## Why Join PWDA?

- ✓ Stay informed on policy changes affecting our community.
- ✓ Be part of advocacy efforts that hold the government accountable.
- ✓ Get involved in disability rights campaigns and community actions.
- ✓ Participate in member-only events, forums, consultations and Advisory Groups.
- ✓ Connect with other advocates.

[Join PWDA today!](#)



## **About People with Disability Australia**

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) is a national disability rights and advocacy, nonprofit, non-government organisation. We have a cross-disability focus, representing the interests of people with all kinds of disability and our membership is made up of people with disability and organisations mainly constituted by people with disability. We are also the national peak for LGBTIQ+ people with disability.

### **Contact PWDA**

**Email:** [pwd@pwd.org.au](mailto:pwd@pwd.org.au)

**Phone:** 1800 422 015

**Website:** [pwd.org.au](http://pwd.org.au)



**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY  
AUSTRALIA**