

Economic Justice for People with Disability: A National Blueprint



“Living on the DSP means I can never get ahead. I’m one unexpected bill away from not being able to eat properly for a week.”

“As a person with intellectual disability, I’m often only offered jobs that pay less than minimum wage.”²

“I’ve been forced to live with family because I can’t find affordable housing that meets my access needs. I’m in my 40s and have no independence.”³

These are the daily realities for millions of Australians with disability. One in five of us live with disability, and we deserve the same economic security as everyone else. Yet many of us struggle to put food on the table, find meaningful employment, or secure a safe place to call home.

Economic justice means not having to choose between paying for essential disability supports or buying groceries.

It means employers who value our talents rather than seeing only our disability. It means housing options that don’t force us into institutions or homelessness.

Economic justice for people with disability isn’t just a nice idea – it’s our right under international and Australian law. It’s also smart economics: when we can participate fully in our communities, everyone benefits.

This National Blueprint, created by Australia’s Disability Representative Organisations, demands urgent action by the next Australian Government in three critical areas to achieve economic justice: income support, employment and housing.

**The current system is failing us.
We need justice now.**

¹ People with Disability Australia, Federal Budget Submission, 2023

² Inclusion Australia, Equal Pay Campaign, 2022

³ People with Disability Australia, Housing Affordability Crisis Report, 2023



Putting economic justice front and centre

The next Australian Government must make economic justice for people with disability its immediate priority. Economic justice impacts every aspect of government policy and requires coordinated, decisive leadership.



INCOME SUPPORT A true safety net



EMPLOYMENT Real jobs and real opportunities



HOUSING Secure housing as an anchor to economic stability

Everyone deserves enough money to live with dignity. The current Disability Support Pension doesn't reflect the real costs of living with disability.

The next government must:

- Increase payment rates to recognise the actual costs of living with disability
- Remove barriers that stop people from working
- Accept permanent disability doesn't need to be repeatedly proven
- Recognise people's autonomy by no longer tying payments to a partner's income
- Take steps to increase access for culturally and linguistically diverse people, First Nations people, and people in remote areas by improving communication and removing system barriers

Economic justice for people with disability requires immediate political action. Our political leaders face a clear choice: deliver on these fundamental rights or uphold barriers to equality.

Everyone deserves the chance to work in safe, accessible and supportive environments. Current employment policies are failing people with disability.

The next government must:

- Commit to developing a model and pathway to lift minimum wages to 100% of the minimum wage by 2034, in line with the Royal Commission recommendation.
- Require employers with 100+ staff to track and report disability employment figures
- Set a 15% disability employment target for the public sector with specific targets for marginalised people with disability
- Ensure a minimum of 3% of roles within the public sector disability employment target are designated specifically for, and filled by, people with an intellectual disability.
- Include disability employment requirements in the new foundational support program
- Increase the Job Access program budget and better promote it to employers and people with disability

Everyone deserves a safe, affordable, accessible place to live. Current housing policies aren't meeting the needs of people with disability.

The next government must:

- Take swift action to move people out of institutions into community-based homes
- Bring NSW and WA into line with the National Construction Code mandatory accessibility standards
- Make it a condition of negative gearing to retrofit rentals with accessible features
- Fund disability-led navigator services to help people find accessible housing
- Use the Housing Australia Future Fund to support accessible housing
- Create shared equity programs and removing tax disincentives to help people with disability buy homes
- Provide additional support for people with reduced employment capacity to access housing connected to transport and services