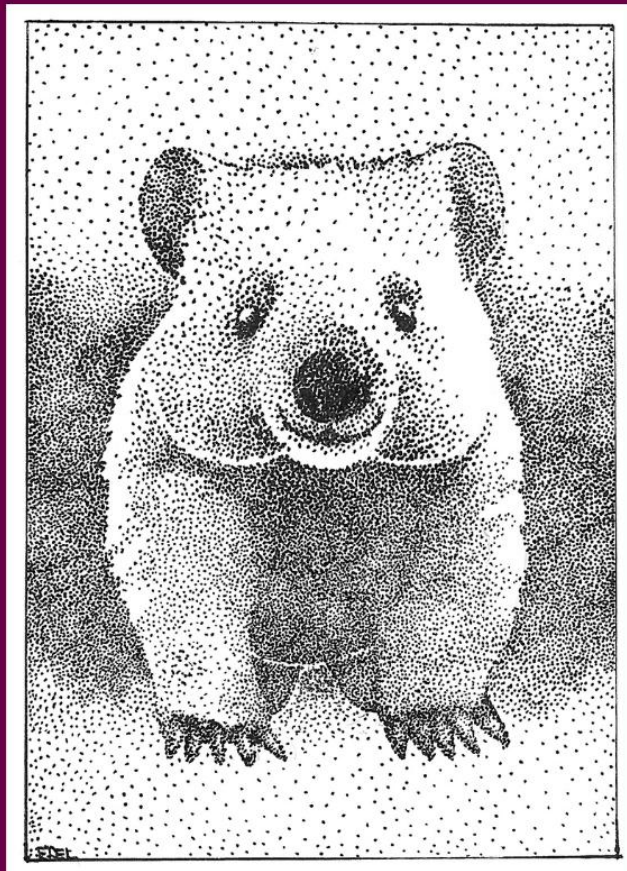


Analysis of Volume 6 of the Implementation of the DRC



Artwork by artist with disability, Brandon Edelman, on what autonomy, safety, access without restrictions and community feels like for a person with disability.

About the Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network

The Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network (**QIDAN**) is a group of organisations providing individual advocacy services to Queenslanders living with disability. These organisations are funded under the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program (**QDAP**). The member organisations include Aged and Disability Advocacy; AMPARO Advocacy Inc; Capricorn Citizen Advocacy; Mackay Advocacy Inc; People with Disability Australia; Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion (**QAI**); Rights in Action; Yarn2Action run by Aged and Disability Advocacy; Speaking Up For You; and TASC.

QIDAN has three aims:

- Systemic advocacy: coordinated action to address systemic issues experienced by people with disability,
- Member support: a collaborative space for the exchange of information, resources and issues affecting disability advocacy organisations, and
- Sector advocacy: to promote the importance and value of independent disability advocacy on a local, state, and national basis.

The members of QIDAN offer various independent disability advocacy services across Queensland, including general disability advocacy, specialised individual advocacy (including National Disability Insurance Scheme appeals), citizen advocacy and systemic advocacy. QAI coordinates the Disability Advocacy Pathways Hotline ('Pathways') to provide information and referrals to people with disability, their families and supporters.

About the cover artwork

The cover artwork was created by Brandon Edelman of Crossroads Arts. Through his artwork, Brandon reflects on what autonomy, safety, access without restrictions, and community mean to him as a person with disability.

Brandon says:

"My artwork is based on a solitary native Australian animal. While it spends much of its life alone, when it finds its community, it finds happiness, connection and a sense of belonging. This reflects my own lived experience of finding a place where I am included and valued, and how that makes me feel."

Background

In response to the lack of transparent and meaningful updates on the implementation of the Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (**DRC**), QIDAN initiated an independent, self-led analysis of the progress of each DRC recommendation. What started as a review of publicly available information quickly became something much larger, and our findings from the analysis changed the way we think about the governments' commitment to Queenslanders with disability. We decided to turn our analysis into the following report, because we believe that our findings belong to the public. QIDAN have two main intentions for this report:

1. We want it to be a tool everyone can use to independently track the implementation of the DRC recommendations, and to keep up to date with what governments have said and/or done in relation to the recommendations.
2. We want to keep governments accountable.

Since the DRC was first established in 2019, it has had a significant impact on Australia's disability community. The consultation and evidence gathering process involved nearly 10,000 people with disability, their families and their carers, who shared stories of maltreatment, discrimination, and oppression. The incredible strength of those who contributed to the DRC helped to inform 222 recommendations issued by the DRC in its final report in September 2023. All recommendations were made with the intent of reducing and eliminating the risk of maltreatment, discrimination and exclusion experienced by people with disability, and to reach the realisation of equitable rights and genuine inclusion.

Despite the DRC final report being published over two years ago, there has been very little progress in the implementation of the recommendations. In fact, QIDAN discovers in this report that **only 3% of recommendations have been genuinely implemented**, and 53% of recommendations have no progress we can report on. The lack of action taken by federal and state and territory governments to implement the DRC has significantly impacted the people who shared their experiences with the Commission, and has eroded public confidence that governments are committed to a truly inclusive Australia.

In July 2024, the Australian and Queensland governments released reports detailing their responses to each recommendation made by the DRC, advising whether each recommendation was:

- Accepted
- Accepted in principle
- Subjected to further information
- Noted
- Rejected

QIDAN analysed the reports and noted many of the governments' responses to recommendations were sometimes misleading and did not adequately address the actual intent of the DRC, nor provide strong or clear commitment to the changes the DRC proposed. More information on QIDAN's findings can be found in [QIDAN's Position Paper on the Government Responses to the DRC](#).

Timeline – from the final report to the present

In September 2024, the Disability Reform Ministerial Council (**DRMC**) released a [Disability Reform Roadmap for 2024 and 2025](#) (the **Roadmap**), which provided a brief overview and timeline of the key deliverables for major disability reform pieces, including the DRC, National Disability Insurance Scheme (**NDIS**) reform, Foundational Supports, and Australia's Disability Strategy (**ADS**). The Roadmap clearly stated:

- an interim joint progress update on the DRC was due in December 2024
- the first national implementation progress report was due in June 2025, and
- the second progress report is due in December 2025¹.

It is important to note the first national implementation progress report was only published in late November 2025.

After the Roadmap was published, the Queensland Government committed over \$160 million to disability reform in the Queensland 2024-25 Budget, including investment for the co-designed implementation of the DRC.

In December 2024, the Australian, state and territory governments published a report titled the [National Interim Update 2024](#). The stated intention of this short report was to provide a “snapshot” of the work governments are doing on certain recommendations². However, as we will discuss throughout our report, the activities described in the National Interim Update 2024 report do not adequately meet the intention of the recommendations made by the DRC. The report also reiterated “All governments have agreed that biannual reporting arrangements will commence from June 2025”³.

Following the National Interim Update 2024 report, there was very little communication from the governments about the DRC for most of 2025. The first meaningful update on the DRC was mentioned in the [DRMC Communiqué](#) dated 6 June 2025, which stated Ministers “reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the joint government’s response to the Disability Royal Commission recommendation as a priority for the DRMC and agreed to endorse the Biannual report out of session by the end of August 2025”⁴. QIDAN believe this is a reference to the first national implementation progress report. This report was not released in August. Then, on the 30th of July 2025, an updated [Disability reform roadmap](#) was published.

In October 2025, QIDAN reached out to Queensland’s Minister for Disability to ask when the report will be published, and the response received from the Minister offered no information on its status nor due date.

Finally, on 27 November 2025, governments released the [Disability Royal Commission Progress Report 2025](#), providing federal and state-based updates on each recommendation⁵. Upon review of this report, QIDAN was disappointed by its lack of genuine updates, especially from the Queensland Government.

Alongside the DRC Progress Report 2025, The Queensland Government released a new and updated version of the [Queensland Government Response to the DRC](#), changing the Queensland Government’s position on several recommendations⁶. In fact, the Queensland Government reduced their commitment for two recommendations, and altered their supporting commentary for 37 other recommendations. Some of the changes that concern QIDAN include:

- Recommendation 4.30 (b) regarding vilification because of disability, which was originally accepted in principle but subsequently changed to subjected to further consideration.
- Recommendation 8.16 regarding enabling First Nations organisations to support First Nations peoples with disability in custody, where the Queensland Government originally stated in their response that they accepted the recommendation “to ensure First Nation peoples in custody or under supervision are managed in a culturally sensitive and culturally safe manner”⁷. The response was then altered to remove this sentence⁸.
- Recommendation 9.1 regarding culturally appropriate parenting capacity assessments, which was originally accepted in full by the Queensland Government but subsequently changed to accepted in principle.⁹

It is crucial to note QIDAN could not find any press from the Queensland Government prior to releasing the updated version of its response to the DRC, and the changes made in the new response paper are not clearly identified within the new response document. Though QIDAN do note that the DRC Progress Report 2025 contains several statements about the updated Queensland response, the statements are scattered, inconsistent, and are not made on every relevant recommendation. This means that QIDAN only learned of all the content changed by the current Queensland Government by performing a side-by-side comparison of the original and updated response reports. Covertly changing and downgrading commitments to certain recommendations sets a dangerous precedent, and QIDAN will monitor any future updates made by the Queensland Government.

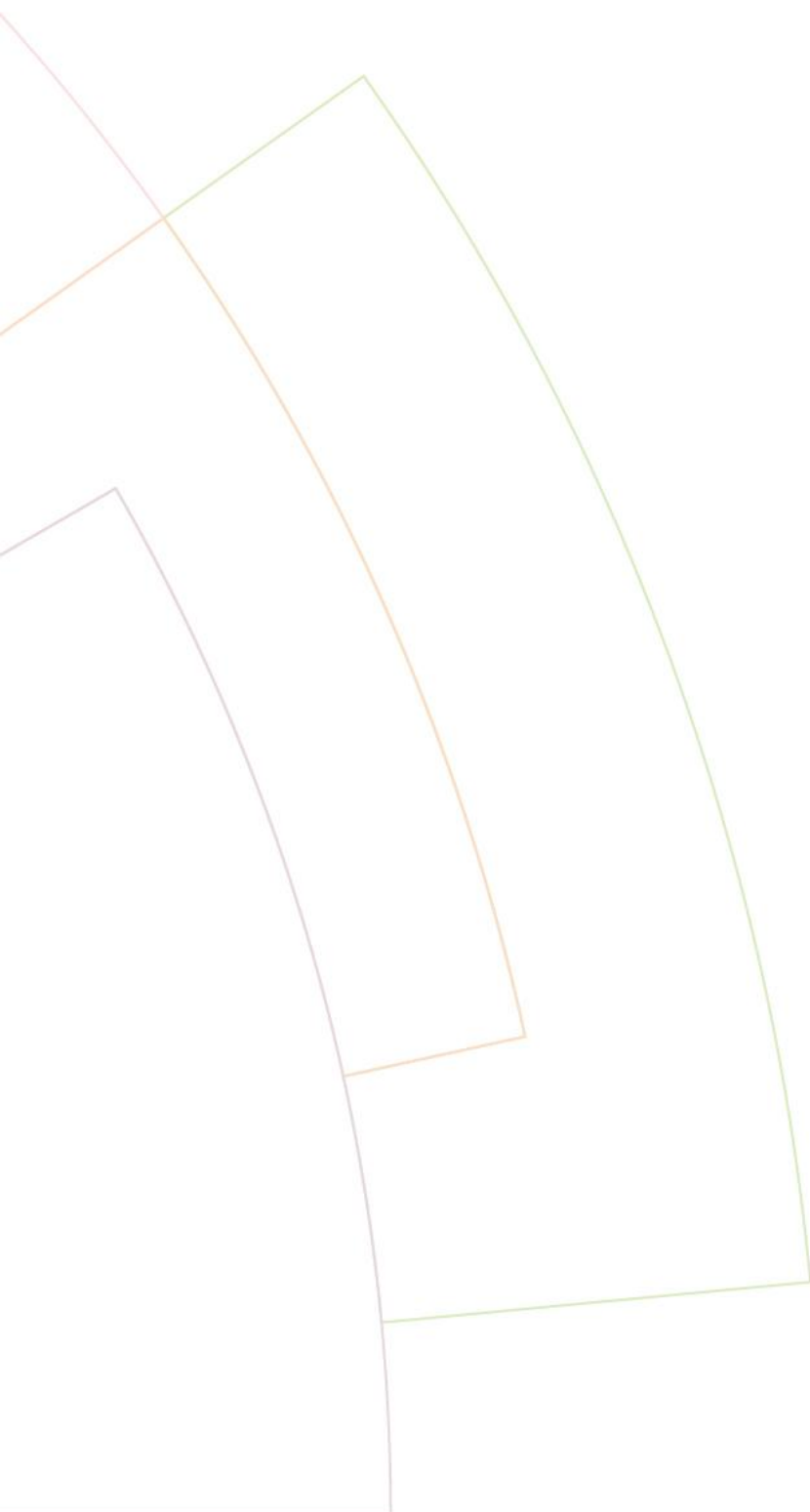
QIDAN's ongoing commitment to the Disability Royal Commission

QIDAN intend for this analysis to be an annual exercise, and we hope to publish this type of report annually to keep our communities up to date. For this analysis report, QIDAN used information that is publicly available. In many cases, this meant reviewing media statements, articles, reviews of policies and strategies, announcements of reviews into policies and strategies, amendments to legislation, information on consultations, and information from government websites. We use the following terms to indicate how far each recommendation is in the implementation process:

- **Rejected:** The government/s responsible for implementing this recommendation has shown they have no intent to implement it.
- **No Update:** The government/s responsible have either made no public comment regarding implementation of the recommendation, have made no clear attempt at implementation, or the attempt has been cited by the government/s for the recommendation does not actually align with the recommendation.
- **Beginning stages:** The government/s responsible have started a review, plan or program that will inform the future implementation of the recommendation, but no further work has occurred.
- **In progress:** The government/s responsible have implemented a review, plan or program aligning with the recommendation. The government/s may also have started pilot projects or other initial steps that will likely lead to full implementation in the future.
- **Implemented:** The government/s responsible have implemented the recommendation in line with the DRC's intention.

The process of analysing the implementation of the DRC recommendations was challenging and time-consuming. For QIDAN, it put into perspective how difficult it would be for the every-day person to try to keep up to date with the DRC. Often, the updates we discovered were not directly attributed to the DRC, meaning QIDAN had to use discretion to decide whether an action taken by government or other body truly reflected the intent of a DRC recommendation. Because our analysis is based on what is publicly available, and our own discretion, it may not reflect the most recent developments. In an effort to ensure we present accurate information sections of this analysis were provided to relevant Government Departments and agencies prior to release to offer an opportunity for feedback on any publicly available information we may have missed or misrepresented.

QIDAN is committed to promoting and defending the rights of people with disability, and we are hopeful the implementation of the DRC will eliminate the conditions leading to Australians with disability being targeted by violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The disability community deserve to play an active role in the disability reform, and QIDAN strives to ensure the DRC is not forgotten.



Volume 6: Enabling autonomy and access

Volume 6 focuses on the promotion of access and autonomy for people with disability. Some of the specific areas highlighted in this volume include accessible information and systems, the right to decision making, access to advocacy, and bodily autonomy. The recommendations in this volume ask for legislative reviews and reforms, improvements to supported decision making, reforms to the Public Trustee, additional funding for disability advocacy, and improvements to the health system.

Note: In March 2026, The Queensland Government responded to the Inquiry into elder abuse in Queensland. Recommendation 10 of the Inquiry's report calls for reform to capacity judgement frameworks and promotion of supported-decision making, which the Queensland Government says it supports 'in principle'. The Queensland Government further stated that they will explore options to "further provide supported decision-making", including by considering relevant DRC recommendations¹⁰. Recommendations 6.4 to 6.10 concern supported-decision making and will hopefully be implemented in the near future in line with the Inquiry in elder abuse in Queensland. However, there has been limited-to-no progress on these recommendations that QIDAN can report on at this stage.

Recommendations 6.1 - 6.2: A national plan to promote accessible information and communications and increase Auslan interpreters.

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendations 6.1 and 6.2 recommend the development of an 'Associated Plan' alongside the Australian Disability Strategy, with the objective of improving the accessibility of information and communication, as well as a workforce strategy, to increase Auslan interpreters. In response to these recommendations, all governments supported the development of the Associated Plan stating scoping and development will commence in 2024. According to the DRC Progress Report 2025, the development of the Associated Plan has commenced that will action both recommendations. Disappointingly, drafts have not been shared with the community yet and governments do not expect the Associated Plan to be finalised until June 2027¹¹.

Recommendation 6.3: Access to appropriately skilled and qualified interpreters

Responsibility: Australian Government

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.3 calls for improved access to appropriately skilled and qualified interpreters for people with disability, recommending that translator and interpreter accreditations include disability awareness components. Recommendation 6.3 further recommends amendments to the NDIS to include working with interpreter's standards. The Australian Government have said they are working with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters to develop a training package. As development of training is underway, this recommendation is in the beginning stages of implementation.

Recommendations 6.4 - 6.5: Recognition of the CRPD and amendments in guardianship and administration legislation

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendations 6.4 and 6.5 ask for guardianship and administration legislation to be amended to recognise the rights of people with disability in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and for relevant legislation to include a more empowering, progressive use of language. The Queensland Government is yet to action either of these recommendations.

Recommendation 6.6: Supported decision-making principles

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.6 calls for states and territories to ensure guardianship and administration legislation include supported decision-making principles as outlined by the DRC. This recommendation also asks states and territories to identify and reform any laws relevant to decision-making support. The Australian Government released the National Public

Guardianship Principles (2025)¹², which they state has been informed by recommendation 6.6. Though QIDAN see the Australian Government's progress as positive, it does not actually amend legislation as outlined in this recommendation.

Recommendations 6.7 - 6.12: Changes to guardianship and administration law and guidelines

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendations 6.7 through to 6.12 discuss the need for sweeping changes to guardianship and administration legislation and guidelines, including changes to assumed decision-making ability, representation orders, representatives and supporters, guidelines on maximising participation and public disclosure and confidentiality restrictions. The Queensland Government is yet to action any of these recommendations.

Recommendation 6.13: Information and education on supported decision-making

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.13 calls for states and territories to ensure public advocates and public guardians provide information, education and training on supported decision-making to people who require it. The Office of the Public Guardian (**OPG**) has held several webinars on supported decision-making and related topics, which have recorded, for the purpose of providing information and education to the public¹³. The OPG's efforts to provide online education and information sessions on supported decision-making demonstrate that this recommendation is in the beginning stages of implementation.

Recommendation 6.14: Systemic advocacy to promote supported decision-making

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.14 asks state and territory governments to establish statutory bodies that are responsible for promoting supported decision-making within the Public Trustee. In the DRC Progress Report 2025, the Queensland Government refers to several initiatives including the Customer Advocate, Financial Independence Pathway program, advocacy referral pathways, and education initiatives¹⁴. Whilst these are positive initiatives, they do not replace the need for a new statutory body that is responsible for promoting supported decision-making. Therefore, we believe there has been no progress in implementing this recommendation.

Recommendation 6.15: Updating the national standards for public advocates, public guardians and public trustees

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.15 calls for national standards for public advocates, public guardians and public trustees to be updated in alignment with recommendations 6.4 – 6.10.

Recommendation 6.15 also calls for recognition of the importance of culturally safe and responsive work. The Australian Guardianship and Administration Council updated the [National Public Guardianship Principles \(NPGP\)](#) in 2025 in line with *current* state and territory legislative requirements¹⁵. As covered in recommendations 6.4 to 6.10, guardianship and administrative legislation have not been amended in line with the DRC. This means that until recommendation 6.4 to 6.10 are fully implemented, changes like those to the NPGP are not fully compatible with recommendation 6.15. We therefore consider this recommendation to be only in the beginning stages of implementation.

Recommendation 6.16: Financial skills development programs

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.16 recommends public trustees offer financial skills development programs to people who are appointed public trustee representatives, whilst also offering support the person to apply for a review of their order. In the DRC Progress Report 2025, the Queensland Government states it is carefully considering this recommendation,

acknowledging it calls for “significant change to ... guardianship systems and legislation”¹⁶. However, there is no further information on how the government intends to begin this process.

Recommendation 6.17: Transparency of public trustee fees and charges

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.17 asks public trustees in each state to provide accessible and transparent information about public trustee fees and charges. It further calls for public trustees to regularly and consistently engage with people under administrative orders about their fees, and to offer information about the services they should expect to receive. The Queensland Government states in the DRC Progress Report 2025 that the Queensland Public Trustee currently publishes information on fees and charges¹⁷. However, QIDAN found that this information isn't in accessible formats. Furthermore, there appears to be no further information about improving regular contact with people under administrative orders and improving engagement around fees and charges.

Recommendation 6.18: Review of public trustees' fees and charges

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accepted in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.18 calls for state and territory governments to facilitate the independent review of public trustee fees and charges. According to the DRC Progress Report 2025, the Queensland Public Trustee consulted with the public and a range of stakeholders about fee reform, and the Queensland Government is currently considering new fee proposals¹⁸. There is no further information about when the government is due to announce their decision on fee reform.

Recommendation 6.19: Data collection on support and representation arrangements

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.19 focuses on the development and implementation of a national approach to collecting and publishing de-identified data on support and representation arrangements. The joint government's response to this recommendation made in 2024 advises that governments will develop an action plan alongside the Australian Disability Strategy. Though the [Data Improvement Plan 2024](#)¹⁹ has been released, it does not provide any actionable steps that governments will take to collect the data as described in this recommendation. Furthermore, there appears to be no other progress made on this recommendation.

Recommendation 6.20: Australia's interpretative declaration in relation to Article 12 of the CRPD

Responsibility: Australian Government

Response: Subject to further consideration

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.20 asks the Australian Government to withdraw its interpretative declaration in relation to Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**). The interpretative declaration means that the Australian Government supports the use of substituted decision making in addition to supported decision making. In the DRC Progress Report 2025, the Australian Government states it will "revisit" the interpretative declaration following its work on recommendation 6.6²⁰, but it provides no timeframe nor course of action.

Recommendations 6.21 - 6.23: Independent disability advocacy

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendations 6.21 through to 6.23 regard improving access to independent individual disability advocacy, improve data collection, and increase the access to culturally safe disability advocacy. Recommendations 6.21 to 6.23 also call for the National Disability Advocacy Framework to be amended to include priority areas such as increasing culturally appropriate and accessible advocacy services. The Queensland Government recently provided short-term uplift funding to Queensland Disability Advocacy Program funded organisations for two consecutive years but has not continued funding for an LGBTQIASB+ pilot which would

have significantly increased access to culturally safer advocacy. As the increased funding for individual advocacy has been only short-term, it does not sustainably increase access to advocacy as recommended by the DRC.

Recommendations 6.24 – 6.25: Cognitive Disability Health Capability Framework

Responsibility: Australian Government

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendations 6.24 and 6.25 call for the improved coordination and implementation of the Cognitive Disability Health Capability Framework, further recommending that the framework should be expanded to include all forms of cognitive disability throughout education and training. The curriculum development unit in intellectual disability health has developed education resources through the University of New South Wales and has released the [Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework](#)²¹. However, this framework does not align with recommendations 6.24 and 6.25, and there is no news available on the plan to implement the Cognitive Disability Health Capability Framework. It is also important to note the Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework received feedback from the Queenslanders with Disability Network (**QDN**) around its use of language. QDN recommended eleven language changes, but the Australian Government only implemented two changes. Despite what appears to be progress towards these recommendations, there are currently no meaningful updates on their genuine implementation.

Recommendation 6.26: Expand the role of the Health Ministers Meeting to monitor health workforce capability development

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.26 asks the Health Ministers Meeting to monitor progress of the expanded scope of the health workforce capability development framework referred to in recommendation 6.25. Without implementation of recommendation 6.25 there are no updates on this recommendation.

Recommendation 6.27: Establish regular progress reporting by accreditation authorities

Responsibility: Australian Government and non-government agencies

Response: (a) Accept in principle, (b) Accept in principle (c) Accept

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.27 calls for accreditation authorities, registered health professionals and peak bodies to review and amend accreditation standards, further recommending that specific cognitive disability health curriculum content should be developed. Though the University of New South Wales has developed lecture plans and tutorial activities²² alongside the Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework, there is no implementation plan, and it appears these are not mandatory resources.

Recommendation 6.28: Improve access to clinical placements in disability health services

Responsibility: Australian Government

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.28 recommends clinical placements in disability health services be prioritised within relevant degrees. The Australian Government has since launched the Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework which includes supporting disability-specific placement opportunities for future health professionals²³. This resource developed by the University of New South Wales offers advice to education providers to develop links with disability organisation to facilitate placement opportunities. Hopefully this leads to increased placements in disability health services, but as previously stated, this framework isn't mandatory for accreditors.

Recommendation 6.29: Improve specialist training and continuing professional development in cognitive disability health care

Responsibility: Australian Government & non-government agencies

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.29 calls for professional development in cognitive disability health care, further recommending that relevant training must continue to be improved. In addition to the

previously mentioned Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework, the newly released [National Roadmap to Improve the Health and Mental Health of Autistic People 2025-2035](#)²⁴, indicates that there is some movement on this recommendation. However, neither the Framework for the Roadmap mention continuing professional development, and it is too early to say whether relevant training is in development and ready to be implemented.

Recommendation 6.30: Expand the scope of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health

Responsibility: Australian Government

Response: Note

Update: Rejected

Recommendation 6.30 asks for the scope of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health to be expanded to include autism and other forms of cognitive impairment. The Australian Government's response in the DRC Progress Report 2025 clearly state that the government and the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health have no intention of making this change²⁵. Therefore, this recommendation is considered rejected.

Recommendation 6.31: Embed the right to equitable access to health services in key policy instruments

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: 6.31(a) Accept, 6.31 (b) accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.31 calls for key policy instruments to embed the right to equitable access to health services. The Australian Government has begun consultation on the National Safety and Quality health service standards²⁶ to prepare for the development of the third edition release in 2029²⁷. With such a late release date, it's disappointing to note there appears to be no plans to amend or review either of the documents in alignment with recommendation 6.31 before 2029.

Recommendation 6.32: Increase capacity to provide supports and adaptations through improved guidance, funding and accessible information

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.32 calls on governments to improve guidance around, and funding for, disability related supports and adaptations in health care. Though the National Roadmap to Improve the Health and Mental Health of Autistic People 2025-2035 begins to address the suggestions made in recommendation 6.32, it is only aimed toward autistic people. Until the health care reform described in this recommendation is made for all people with disability, there are no updates on this recommendation.

Recommendation 6.33: Develop specialised health and mental health services for people with cognitive disability

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Subject to further consideration

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.33 calls for the development of specialised health and mental health services for people with cognitive disability. In the National Interim Update 2024 report, the Queensland Government advised they funded the development of eight “Neuro Wellness Hubs” in response to this recommendation 6.33²⁸. However, these hubs are not a specialist service for people with cognitive disability as described by the DRC. Furthermore, in their DRC Progress Report 2025²⁹, the Queensland Government mentions the Queensland Centre of Excellence in Intellectual and Developmental Disability Mental Health. This service is not a specialised health and mental health service and therefore not applicable to this recommendation. Considering the repeated misalignment of information provided by the Queensland Government in relation to this recommendation, there is no update on its implementation.

Recommendation 6.34: Introduce disability health navigators to support navigation of health care for people with disability

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.34 recommends the establishment of new disability health navigator roles. This role would be responsible for offering support to people with cognitive disability navigating the health care system. In their initial response, the Australian Government advised they were working with state and territory governments to review disability health navigation activities across the country in order to consider the scope for nationally consistent disability health navigation framework. Since this response, an intergovernmental scoping group has been established³⁰. Disability health navigators are also mentioned in the National Roadmap to Improve the Health and Mental Health of Autistic People 2025-2035³¹.

Recommendations 6.35 – 6.36: Stronger legal frameworks for restrictive practices

Responsibility: State and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: No update

Recommendations 6.35 and 6.36 regard the use of restrictive practices and call for immediate action to ban certain restrictive practices and other law reform. The Queensland Government introduced a Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024³², however, this Bill lapsed on 1 October 2024 with the dissolution of the 57th Queensland Parliament and is yet to be re-introduced to Parliament.

Recommendation 6.37: Data collection and public reporting on psychotropic medication

Responsibility: Australian Government

Response: Accept

Update: No update

Recommendation 6.37 calls for the collection and public reporting of data on the use of psychotropic medication, further requesting annual progress reports. Whilst the Psychotropic Medicines in Cognitive Disability or Impairment Clinical Care Standard³³ has been released, no annual progress reports have been published, and no independent evaluation has occurred. The DRC Progress Report 2025 advises that the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission are working to establish how evaluation and reporting could be progressed³⁴. However, public reporting on data has not yet commenced.

Recommendation 6.38: Strengthening the evidence base on reducing and eliminating restrictive practices

Responsibility: Australian Government

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendation 6.38 asks the National Disability Research Partnership (**NDRP**) to commission a longitudinal study to research the impact of various strategies to reduce and eliminate restrictive practices. In December 2024 the NDRP delivered an event aimed at exploring the evidence to enable the elimination of restrictive practices in Australia³⁵. However there appears to be no information about a longitudinal study after this informative event.

Recommendations 6.39 – 6.40: Improving data on restrictive practices

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Accept in principle

Update: Beginning stages

Recommendations 6.39 and 6.40 call for improvements to the collection of data on restrictive practices, further recommending the implementation of specific targets and performance indicators to eliminate restrictive practices by the end of. The DRC Progress Report 2025 mentions the Disability Reform Ministerial Council has agreed to developing a “joint action plan” addressing both recommendation 6.39 and 6.40, and processes to review data to identify consistencies and gaps have apparently begun³⁶. With this in mind, these recommendations are in the beginning stages. However, we note governments have missed the recommended deadline.

Recommendation 6.41: Legislative prohibition of non-therapeutic sterilisation

Responsibility: Australian, state and territory governments

Response: Subject to further consideration

Update: No updates

Recommendation 6.41 asks for all jurisdiction to prohibit non-therapeutic procedures resulting in permanent sterilisation of people with disability with some exceptions. It also asks for an expansion of annual collation and publication of data on the sterilisation of people with

disability. The latest Australian Sterilisation Data Report³⁷ has included more demographic details but did not fully implement all recommendations for this data.



- ¹ Disability Reform Ministerial Council. (2024). *Disability reform roadmap for 2024 and 2025*. https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/disability-reform-roadmap_0.pdf
- ² Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. (2024). *National interim update 2024*. <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/national-interim-update-2024-easy-read.pdf>
- ³ Ibid, (pp,2)
- ⁴ Disability Reform Ministerial Council. (June 2025). *Disability reform ministerial council (DRMC) Adelaide – 6 June 2025 Communiqué*. <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/drmc-communicue-6-june-2025.pdf>
- ⁵ Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. (November 2025). *Disability Royal Commission Progress Report 2025*. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/disability-royal-commission-progress-report-2025/volume-4-realising-the-human-rights-of-people-with-disability/recommendations-423-to-434-disability-discrimination-reform>
- ⁶ Queensland Government. (2025). *Queensland Government Response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*. https://www.families.qld.gov.au/_media/documents/disability/disability-royal-commission/qld-govt-response-disability-royal-commission.pdf
- ⁷ Queensland Government. (2024). *Queensland Government response to the Disability Royal Commission* (pp, 100). <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/original-queensland-government-response-to-the-disability-royal-commission.pdf>
- ⁸ Queensland Government. (2025). *Queensland Government Response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability* (pp, 92). https://www.families.qld.gov.au/_media/documents/disability/disability-royal-commission/qld-govt-response-disability-royal-commission.pdf
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