

Local federal MP Brief

End Deadly Disability Discrimination – Let's fix this now

People with Intellectual Disability:

There are approximately 450,000 people with intellectual disability in Australia and over 1.5 million close family members. This means over 2 million Australians are directly impacted by the poor health outcomes many people with intellectual disability experience.

The issue:

The health system in Australia is failing people with intellectual disability.

There are clear and costly health inequalities.

Compared with the general population, people with intellectual disability experience:

- Over twice the rate – potentially 38 -53% - of avoidable deaths.
- Lower rates of preventative healthcare and illness detection.
- Twice the rate of emergency department and hospital admissions.

And people with intellectual disability are dying up to 27 years earlier than the general population.

Council for Intellectual Disability and our allies took a major role in the **Disability Royal Commission hearing on health** in February 2020. That hearing led to a specific finding that people with cognitive disability suffer systemic neglect in the Australian health system.



Let's fix this - The National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability:

Following the success of the **Our Health Counts** campaign in 2019 we worked closely with the Department of Health to develop the **National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability**.

The National Roadmap has now been launched and you can find it on the [NSW Health's website](#).

It outlines a 10-year plan starting from this year, and importantly a lot of the work will be done in the first 3 years (meaning things will get better sooner). The Roadmap contains good programs to improve the health of people with intellectual disability.

The most important part of the Roadmap is the creation of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health. The Centre is essential to the success of the Roadmap. It will build broader capacity in healthcare. It will give health care professionals the knowledge, skills and right attitudes to provide quality, appropriate and disability-informed health care.

What we ask you to do:

We want all parties to join The Government's commitment to the Roadmap and all parties to commit to establishing the National Centre in the next 12 months.

There will be a federal election very soon. We need to know that the members of parliament we elect will support the implementation of the Roadmap and the early establishment of the National Centre of Excellence.

References:

- [Health inequality and people with intellectual disability – research summary](#)
- [Cause of death and potentially avoidable deaths in Australian adults with intellectual disability using retrospective linked data](#), Trollor J, Srasuebkul and Howlett S (2017)
- [Upholding the right to life and health: a review of the deaths in care of people with disability in Queensland](#), Office of the Public Advocate (Qld) (2016).
- [Announcement by the Federal Department of Health.](#)

Presented by Council for Intellectual Disability and Inclusion Australia in partnership with the Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine, Down Syndrome Australia and UNSW 3DN Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry.



Inclusion Australia

