



Our Health Still Counts!

Now and into the future.

The end of the 2025 Federal Election also means the end of the Our Health Still Counts campaign at CID. For a summary of what we were asking for in the campaign, click here www.cid.org.au/resource/our-health-still-counts-position-statement

The campaign raised the voices of people with intellectual disability and their supporters, highlighting the inequities they face in our health system. We asked for strong recommitments from the political parties to the National Roadmap for Improving the Healthcare of People with Intellectual Disability (the Roadmap). We also asked for action to ensure doctors get the training they need to properly support people with intellectual disability, and longer appointments with people with intellectual disability.

Although there were no new commitments made, we are encouraged by Labor's focus on equitable access to health for all, which has now been strongly endorsed by the Australian electorate. The extra time, care and support that PWID need in our current health system will remain a strong advocacy area for CID.

We acknowledge Labor's re-stated commitment to the Roadmap, and their vision that people with intellectual disability receive high quality and timely healthcare. We appreciate the commitment Labor has made to continue hearing directly from people with intellectual disability about what they need to live healthy lives. We look forward to working with Labor and all members of parliament in improving the health outcomes of people with intellectual disability.

What we did:

November 2024: Forum at Parliament House (Canberra)

CID project worker Laura Naing led a team of experts in talking to politicians and their staff about how to fix healthcare for people with intellectual disability.

At Parliament, we caught up with Mike Freeland MP, Senator Hollie Hughes, Ed Husic MP, Michelle Rowland MP, Ged Kearney MP, Jerome Laxale MP, Susan Templeman MP, and ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith. We also met representatives from the offices of numerous politicians.

CID Advocacy also extends our heartfelt thanks to Susan Templeman MP for hosting our forum, and to her staff for their generous support.

February 2025: Campaign Launch! + media

We launched our campaign on February 26 with a huge splash in the ABC and the Sydney Morning Herald.

A huge number of supporters added their voice to our campaign via the campaign website.

We also released a public statement by people who gave evidence at the Disability Royal Commission, and an open letter by 120 prominent Australians.

February-April 2025: Meeting with politicians

The team at CID Advocacy met with politicians from across the political spectrum.

We spoke to Health Minister Mark Butler (Labor), Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston (Liberal), Senator Jordon Steele-John (Greens), independents David Pocock, Sophie Scamps, and Helen Haines, and representatives of other MPs.

CID Project Workers Laura Naing and Raylene Griffiths did a brilliant job in sharing their lived experience in the health care system.

May 2025: Responses from the political parties

As the election neared, CID worked hard in chasing up responses from the Labor Party, the Coalition, and the Greens. You can read their formal responses in this blog post www.cid.org.au/our-stories/our-health-still-counts-response

What we achieved:

All three parties reiterated their commitment to implementing the National Roadmap.

The Labor Party made a broader commitment to “working with the intellectual disability community to identify and support solutions to critical health issues, and to implement the Roadmap”. Labor emphasised that “the voices of people with intellectual disability are crucial to improving health outcomes”.

By sharing our professional and lived experience with politicians, CID made sure that they understood that healthcare for people with intellectual disability is about more than numbers and funding. These are real issues that impact real people – people with intellectual disability, their loved ones, and their other supporters.

We are very proud to have run this campaign, which was supported by Inclusion Australia, Down Syndrome Australia, the Queensland Centre of Excellence in Autism and Intellectual Disability Health, and the Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine.

What's next:

Many people shared their experiences about the inequities faced by people with intellectual disability in the health system. While the Our Health Still Counts campaign is finished for now, CID will use the momentum of this campaign to continue to push for change. There is still a lot to do to fix the inequities in our health system.

CID will continue its advocacy on health issues through our work with the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

CID warmly thanks every single person who has shared their story with us in this campaign.

In particular, we thank our parent advocates Rebecca Kelly and Danijela Fitzgibbon for sharing their stories with the media as part of the campaign.

The CID Advocacy Team congratulates the Albanese Labor Government on its victory in the federal election on May 3. We thank them for their support for people with intellectual disability, and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the next term of government to ensure that people with intellectual disability receive fair and equal access to healthcare.