National Disability Research Partnership

The future is co-designed housing disability research

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National Disability Research Partnership

Acknowledgement of Country

The NDRP acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia. The peoples on whose land we live, and work have lived on and cared for Country for thousands of generations, and this land has never been ceded. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

Purpose

Our vision is policy and practice in Australia are transformed by disability-led research.

Our purpose is to facilitate collaborative and inclusive disability research that builds evidence for policy and practice to advance the rights of people with disability.

How we do this:



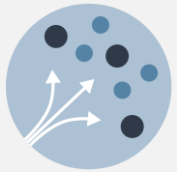
fund research that is informed by the NDRP Research Agenda



strengthen disability research capacity



make sure research is done by and with people with disability



mobilise evidence for action to influence policy and practice

NDRP Research Agenda areas



Upholding and promoting the rights of people with disability



Safety of people with disability



Health and wellbeing



Housing for people with disability



Inclusive and accessible communities



The National Disability Insurance Scheme



Personal and community support for people with disability



Community attitudes



Employment of people with disability



Education and learning for children with disability



Education and learning for adults with disability



Transition of young people with disability from education to employment

NDRP Progress 2024-current

COMPLETE

Scaling the NDRP

- Inclusive governance
- Inclusive research funding processes
- Significant engagement - PWD, DROs, researchers, government
- 2025 Seed funding – funding research co-design - safety
- Evidence to action
- Commissioned research
- Citizen Research Essentials & Disability Research Leadership Program (DRLP) - HDR

UNDERWAY

Embedding

- 2026 research funding – safety, accessible and inclusive communities
- Seed funding results & evidence synthesis
- Wide consultation on policy research needed
  - Rapid Policy Research Collaboration
  - Commissioned Research results
- DRLP – Fellowships
- Knowledge mobilisation from the beginning of research

THE FUTURE

A connected and sustainable disability research ecosystem

- High-quality, trusted and relevant disability research.
- Increased disability research capability and leadership.
- Greater uptake of evidence in policy, practice and reform.

Impact: Research Co-design Seed Funding Round

1. Funding co-design before research begins changes the research
2. Co-design depends on creating the right conditions
3. Co-design looks different in different communities
4. Research systems continue to create barriers to disability-led research
5. Investment in co-design builds capability across the research system

National Disability Research Partnership (2026) The impact of investing in research co-design, written by Dr Ellen Skladzien for the National Disability Research Partnership

What it takes: to co-design research

Factors for meaningful co-design	
Disability leadership	People with disability shaped research priorities, methods and decisions.
Trust	Trust must be built before meaningful co-design can occur.
Accessibility	Accessibility supports need to be tailored to the need of the community.
Time	Time is a requirement for co-design and for some communities or cohorts additional time is required.
Context	There can be barriers to participating in co-design or research because of different settings or systems.
Sharing power	Consultation is not enough. People with disability must have leadership roles and decision-making power.
Cultural safety	Communities should shape how co-design is undertaken.
Psychosocial safety	Safe participation requires deliberate planning and ongoing support.
Investment	Co-design requires dedicated investment.

Two examples: Disability and Homes

Safe Homes: alternatives to group homes	A rights-based exploration of safety in home aged care for older CALD women with disability
Lead: Dr Tess Bright, University of Melbourne. Partner: Inclusion Australia. Community: People with intellectual disability and complex support needs. This project asked whether individual support arrangements ('service for one'), where families directly employ support workers, are safer than group homes. The project resulted in a co-designed research proposal to address this evidence gap. They also gave feedback to government on the support arrangements during the project.	*Lead organisation: Australian Association of Gerontology. Partner: National Ethnic Disability Alliance. Community: Older CALD women with disability using home aged care.* This project examined what safety in aged care meant for older women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living with disability. Co-design shifted the project from review of formal policies to individuals' understanding of their own rights. The project produced a grey-literature review mapping rights and safeguarding gaps in the intersection between ageing, disability and cultural diversity.

What's Next: What the 2026 portfolio looks like

A disability-led and diverse research portfolio

19/19
disability-led

3
primary First Nations disability projects

11
include intellectual disability

2
primary CALD, refugee or migrant focus

5
include children and young people

8
regional, rural or remote dimension

Portfolio classifications overlap; projects may be counted in more than one group.

How to engage with the NDRP

Email: info@ndrp.org.au

Phone: 03 9000 3813

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