## Advocacy for Inclusion – Funding priorities for disability – ACT 2023/24 Budget Submission

Funding area	Initiative	Description/details	Evidence of need/rationale
ACT Disability Strategy  A funding package to deliver, monitor and implement the ACT Disability Strategy – the ACT's commitment to Australia's Disability Strategy and to meet obligations under CRPD.  Supports delivery of outcomes under Wellbeing Indicator	Funding to oversight and monitor the Strategy	Adequate funding to the ACT Office for Disability and Disabled Persons Organisations to deliver and monitor the Strategy including: Oversight Group - with an oversight, monitoring and evaluation function. Taskforce or champions group - responsible for promoting implementation and uptake of the strategy. Deliberative panel - YourSay style panel to deliver feedback on change experienced on the ground across the life of the Strategy.	Counting the Costs: Sustainable funding for the ACT community services sector note the resource gaps emerging within community organisations as a consequence of funding. A particular concern centred on the lack of funds to support monitoring and evaluation of programs. In response, the ACT government proposed moving towards a sustainable resourcing and relationship model with the community sector.
Human rights, Employment, Living standards, and Sense of belonging and inclusion  Enables compliance with CRPD Article 3 – General Principles and Article 4 – General Obligations	ACT Disability Strategy signature measures (selected from measures below)	Funded measures under each of the Strategy themes to support the delivery of outcomes identified through the current consultation process (a range of measures are outlined in this submission)	A funded ACT Disability Strategy acknowledges gaps in inclusion, social participation, economic participation and inclusion outcomes outlined in work such as the Deloitte Business Case for Philanthropy. It also supports the ACT Government to improve wellbeing for people with disability in line with the ACT's wellbeing indicators.

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ACT Disability Health	Social model training	Funding to support the purchase and	The Deloitte Business Case for Philanthropy
		•	The Deloitte Business Case for Philanthropy estimates that improved health and wellbeing outcomes for people with disability through social inclusion could bring dividends to the equivalent of an additional 251,000 Quality Adjusted Life Years, valued at \$57 billion annually.  Diversion of people with disability from acute care is also a system saver for the health system and NDIS.  Consultations and engagements in the development of the Strategy have indicated that building social model understandings in the medical profession are going to be complex and difficult. The medical model of disability places the 'problem' in the person, by viewing
health services  Enables compliance with CRPD			are going to be complex and difficult. The medical model of disability places the
			and individual-level biological and psychological factors. It also acknowledges that these barriers can reduce health outcomes and health equity for people with disability.

Funding area	Initiative	Description/details	Evidence of need/rationale
Funding area	Diagnostic overshadowing training module	Pescription/details  Funding to develop a training module on diagnostic overshadowing for the medical profession	Diagnostic overshadowing is when a medical professional assumes that a patient's complaint is related to their disability. This is a significant risk when medical professionals do not have specific disability knowledge and training. It can lead to symptom dismissals, underdiagnoses, and misdiagnoses. It's a complex and emerging concern that
	Extended consultations	Funding for an annual free extended consultation for people with disabilities as recommended by the ACTCOSS Imagining Better Report	requires work to develop training.  The Report on Government Services (2022) highlight the need for action and attention to health services for people with disability. Waiting times for necessary care are mounting, with more than 50% of people in need of an urgent appointment having to wait more than 24 hours. Current settings mean that medical professionals are under financial pressure to keep consultations short. This was a key recommendation from the ACTCOSS Imagining Better report — people with disability highlighted issues with short consultations in managing complex and chronic conditions and showed how short bulk billing consultations exacerbated the risk of poor outcomes and diagnostic overshadowing.
	Wraparound diagnostic services	Funding to encourage the development of ACT based wrap around services for people with a diagnostic disability – i.e., an ACT Downs Syndrome Clinic or a Muscular	This was a key recommendation from the ACTCOSS Imagining Better report – people with disability highlighted the lack of some

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		Dystrophy Clinic (or to bring those clinics to Canberra periodically)	diagnostic wrap-around services in Canberra.
	Community health access grants	Small grants for physical, digital and information access improvements to primary practice and allied health	A 2003 survey from Access for All highlighted an extremely poor level of accessible buildings, exam beds, signage and other facilities within primary and allied health. A more recent letter of concern from the Federal Human Rights Commission to the RACP indicated that they were concerned about the lack of progress on the issues raised in this survey.
	Hospital kit upgrades	Funding to address accessibility gaps in acute settings – communication boards, hoists, adjustable exam beds etc.	The lack of accessible, modern and fit for purpose kit has been consistently highlighted in strategy consultations.
Disability support	Continue CASP and address mental health gaps and	Continued funding to address gaps in supports under NDIS including mental	Individual advocates have noted a continuing need and gaps in support for
Funding to maintain and deliver disability supports including NDIS gaps, mental health and transition supports for people in crisis	shortfalls	health and the continuation of discrete funding for ACT Community Assistance & Support Program. Indexation and funding continuity	people exiting acute health care, justice and crisis. The ACT's CASP program fills important ongoing gaps for people ineligible for the NDIS and people in NDIS transition that have been widely highlighted including in the NDIS review and hearings of the Royal Commission.
Supports delivery of outcomes under Wellbeing Indicator Human Rights, Access to Services, and Mental Health  Enables compliance with CRPD Article 25 - Health	Post PACER support	Funding to provide medium-longer term support to people in mental health crisis in contact with PACER	The PACER program is well regarded however individual advocates have noted a continuing need and gaps in support for people exiting acute health care, justice and crisis. These issues have highlighted in the PACER review.

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Justice and Human Rights	Implement healthy prisons	Funding to implement AMC Healthy Prisons	People with disability are over-represented
	review recommendations in	Review recommendations including	at all stages of the criminal justice system –
Funding to address the over-	AMC	implementing universal design in ACT	as witnesses, victims, offenders,
representation of people		correctional facilities and more timely access	defendants, and prisoners. The <u>Healthy</u>
with disability in the ACT		to functional assessments – Funding to	Prison Review 2022 reported nearly one
justice system including		implement recommendations from pillar 4	third of AMC detainees as having a
diversion from the prison		of the R25 by 25 Recidivism Strategy	disability and highlighted the need for
and oversight of closed		including transitional services to support	services and adequate disability support.
spaces		correctional detainees with disability re-	
		enter the community, the transitional center	
		and to implement the promised ACT	
Supports delivery of outcomes		Corrections Disability Framework.	
under Wellbeing Indicator	Recidivism, rehabilitation	Funding for transitional services outlined in	Offenders with disability are more
Access to justice and	and corrections	the R25 by 25 recidivism strategy	vulnerable to extended and repeat
restorative practices and Human rights		In particular funding to develop the	incarceration ( <u>Baldry et al., 2012</u> ). The ACT
Truman rights		purpose-built rehabilitation center,	has the highest rate of recidivism in
Enables compliance with CRPD		transitional services,	Australia. Inadequate disability support is
Article 13 – Access to Justice		and implement the ACT corrections	linked to cycles of offending and
and Article 12 – Equal		disability framework	reincarceration for people with disability
Recognition Before the Law			( <u>Doyle et al., 2022</u> ).
	Fund a proper OPCAT	Funding of National Preventative	Without adequate resourcing, NPM bodies
	mechanism	Mechanisms to carry out OPCAT functions	remain reliant on a complaints-based
		(funding for work beyond a staff position)	approach, responding to issues only as
			they arise. This reliance on a reactive
			approach is an established issue within
			anti-discrimination frameworks within
			Australia (see e.g., <u>Fredrickson et al.,</u>
			<u>2019</u> ).

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Education	Funding to implement the	The ACT Education Directorate is	Too many students with disability
	ACT Inclusive Education	implementing an Inclusive Education	experience barriers to education, poor
A funding package to	Strategy and a full transition	Strategy and we seek funding to deliver and	completion and harm within education
improve outcomes for	to inclusive education	monitor and evaluate the strategy	settings. Social inclusion is linked to
students with disability,			education. Without an adequate inclusive
deliver the ACT Inclusive			education system, the rights of people with
Education Strategy and			disability to education remains nominal
improve universal design			and they are denied meaningful
			opportunities for social and economic
			inclusion. The ACT has an over-
Supports delivery of outcomes			representation of students in segregated
under Wellbeing Indicator			settings. Investment in this area is needed
Equity of educational			to deliver outcomes through the ACT
outcomes, Learning for life,			Inclusive Education Strategy. See also AFI's
and <u>Student belonging</u>			White Paper on Education.
Enables compliance with CRPD	Universal design of	Funding to deliver universally designed	There are benefits where systems,
Article 24 - Education	curricula, physical and	curricula, physical and digital spaces.	processes and services are designed with
	digital spaces		improved accessibility for all students,
			parents and carers, regardless of whether
			or not disability is identified. This will
			increase accessibility for people with
			misdiagnosed or unrecognised support
			needs and reduce the onus on people with
			disability to disclose their support needs.
			There is a need for continued effort to
			retrofit all existing physical, digital, and
			learning infrastructure to meet universal
			design requirements.
			In 2021 ACTCOSS told the Schools
			Infrastructure Inquiry they received data
			from the ACT Electoral Commission that
			showed none of the 62 schools that were

Funding area	Initiative	Description/details	Evidence of need/rationale
			used as polling places were accessible
			without assistance.
	Increase per student		Students and teachers need to be
	disability loading		adequately supported to ensure quality,
			inclusive education. Supports include
			assistive technology or one-on-one
			behavioural, social, and academic supports
			where appropriate. Increases to disability
			loading must not create additional
			administrative burdens or barriers for
			teachers.
Housing	More public housing at the	Increase availability of public housing,	The Report on Government Services (2023)
	gold standard of	improve maintenance and enable	indicates a decline in the number of social
Funding to address the	accessibility	better provision of disability modifications	housing dwellings: the lowest number in
housing and homelessness		to meet demand	the ACT in 10 years after a peak in 2018. In
crisis for people with			comparison to the rest of Australia, the
disability including			ACT has the lowest rate of public housing
encouraging more			dwellings that are weather appropriate and
accessible and affordable			meet energy efficiency expectations. The
built form through well			average turnaround time for vacant stock
maintained public, private			in public housing has nearly doubled since
and community dwellings			2021 from 50 to 90 days.
			Problems with public housing applications,
Supports delivery of outcomes			transfers and maintenance are one of the
under Wellbeing Indicator			largest ongoing components of AFI's
Homelessness, Housing			individual advocacy alongside NDIS issues.
affordability and availability,	Grow accessible non group	Funding and planning reforms to grow the	The lack of accessible and affordable
Housing suitability, and Rental	community housing	number of community managed housing	housing as well as support gaps mean that
stress		dwellings for people with disability that	too many people are still required to live
		comply with <u>Article 19</u> of CRPD	together to receive disability supports.
			While the ACT has no large institutions it

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Enables compliance with CRPD			does still have a large number of group
Article 19 – Living			settings. Group settings do not meet
Independently and Being			Article 19 of CRPD and also are
Included in the Community			environments where people with disability
and Article 28 – Adequate			experience a lack of choice, autonomy and
Standard of Living and Social Protection			are at risk of violence, abuse and neglect.
FIOLECTION			Negative experiences in group homes have
			been exposed at length in evidence to the
			Disability Royal Commission.
	Tax breaks for accessible	Use levers through the tax and transfer	Most of Australia's dwellings – old and new
	housing	systems to incentivise property owners to	– are not designed to meet the needs of
		offer and maintain accessible rental housing	people with disability. Problems include
			poor access and unsuitable internal
			layouts, inadequately designed bathrooms
			and kitchens. In privately owned and
			rented dwellings, it is left up to individual
			households to decide whether to make
			changes to their dwellings and to
			determine how the costs will be covered
			(see e.g., Wiesel, 2020). A lack of
			accessible and visitable housing is an
			underpinning driver of poverty, social
			exclusion and also other adverse outcomes
			like falls due to people staying in housing
			that has not adapted to access needs.
	Grow accessible private	A package of work to encourage accessible	Private renters with disability make up
	rental	private rental focusing on championing the	55.6% of all renters with disability in the
		need for the real estate sector (including	ACT. These renters are stressed: the ACT
		'mum and dad' landlords) to play a more	continues to have the highest rate of rental
		socially responsive role in addressing the	stress for low-income private renters of
		increased barriers faced by people with	any Australian jurisdiction (73% compared
		disability to access appropriate,	to 50% nationally). A Disability Support

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		affordable rental housing.	Pension recipient could <u>not afford any</u> of
			the 1,354 private rentals advertised in the
			ACT and Queanbeyan in March 2022.
	Package to encourage	Better identification of rental housing that is	There is no way of easily identifying
	socially responsible,	suitable for people with disability. This	suitable accessible housing nor of
	sector-wide leasehold	would include but extend beyond the	understanding supply issues. We can't fix
	application processes	legislated requirement to advertise	what we can't measure.
		adaptable housing dwellings in accordance with Residential Tenancies Act 1997 Section	Secondly people with disability trying to
		11AAA Adaptable housing – advertising.	locate accessible private rental have no
		o Better housing rental application	ready means of finding it. This is an area of
		processes that support applicants with	proven market failure in the real estate
		disability; and	industry and is also a gap in information
		o Provision of longer-term housing	provision by Governments. The Disability
		leaseholds, suitable for NDIS-funded	Gateway for Instance contains no
		home modifications where appropriate	information on private rental housing or on
			Real Estate Agents with expertise.
			Requiring advertising would require real
			estate agents to acquire information and
	Bud and a factor of the	AA	expertise.
	Package to incentivise	Money and training to incentivise the	Greater numbers of medium to high
	accessibility in medium density housing	inclusion of access ready dwellings within all new developments at two stories and above	density dwellings are part of the stated policy of the ACT Government in its
	density nousing	new developments at two stories and above	Planning Review and the ACT Housing
			Strategy. The ACT is currently in a
			development boom with medium – higher
			densities predominating. The
			Governments own modeling predicts the
			ACT is charting a path to 784,000 residents
			between now and 2060 – focused on new
			denser development on the Northside of
			the Territory.

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	Devolution from Group	Funding to support devolution of people	See above for rationale. Funding a
	Housing	with disability from group housing into	'devolution' program would help people in
		independent housing	group homes to widen their housing
			choices and give them information, tools
			and practical support in setting up in
			housing arrangements which support
			personal independence, freedom from
			abuse and wellbeing (while meeting our
			obligations under Article 19 of the CRPD)
Planning and transport	Funding to ensure the new	Funding for a social planning unit within the	AFI supports a greater focus on social
	ACT Planning System	new ACT planning system focused on	planning in the ACT which will in turn
Funding to build social	supports adequate planning	improving planning for universal design and	deliver space, places and infrastructure to
planning capacity and	for people with disability in	ensuring lived experience voice of people	support wellbeing.
responses and ensure	new built infrastructure	with disability and older Canberrans is heard	The Planning Institute of Australia
planning, city infrastructure,		in planning and neighborhood voice forums	describes social planning as:
community facilities and		Funding to train planners, builders and	planning for the needs and aspirations of
transport links meet the		certifiers to improve accessibility	people and communities through strategic
needs of older people and			policy and action, integrated with urban,
people and people with			regional and other planning activity. Social
disabilities			planning is founded on the principles of
			social justice (equity, access, participation
			and rights) and aims to enhance
Supports delivery of outcomes			community well-being and effectiveness.
under Wellbeing Indicator Access to services, Liveable			The ACT lacks some of the layers of
city, and Transport use and			municipal government which would enable
access			social planning to happen – we don't have
			local level Access Committees nor are
Enables compliance with CRPD			there regular programs to train, develop
Article 9 – Accessibility and			and encourage accessibility practice
Article 19 – Living	Accessibility audit and	Funding for a rolling program of stock take,	Accessibility issues persist in parts of the
Independently and Being	improvements*	audits and accessibility	city, group centers, community facilities
<u>Included in the Community</u>			and paths. Work by the former PWDACT

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		improvements to spaces, places, urban	as well as Living Streets and Pedal Power
		infrastructure and community facilities in	has highlighted these issues over several
		the ACT guided by lived experience	years. Complaints about accessibility form
			a small but consistent area of the
			complaints load of the ACT HRC and AFI.
	Accessibility improvements	Small grants to encourage accessibility	PWDACT's Access Survey found persistent
		improvements in older precincts and	gaps and barriers in older parts of Canberra
		premises	like the cities retail courts.
	Improve the ACT Taxi	Implement Auditor General	On 14 June 2022 the Auditor General
	Subsidy Scheme	recommendations, remove cap and subsidy	found that there is also no documented
		limit	rationale for the Scheme's subsidy
			amounts and subsidy caps, nor is there
			documentation showing what information
			was used to establish the subsidy amounts
			and subsidy caps. There is no regular
			review of the Scheme's subsidy amounts
			and subsidy caps; the amounts were last
			updated in 2014.
	Diversify and improve the	Encourage greater diversity of accessible	The quality and comfort of the ACT's
	Wheelchair Accessible Taxi	vehicles within the ACT's fleet	disability taxi fleet is a persistent complaint
	Fleet		in the ACT disability community. The ACT
			currently only offers transport in large vans
			designed for commercial transit. Some
			people find travelling in these
			uncomfortable and frightening. A
			diversification of the fleet would represent
			a service improvement.
	Delivery Fully Accessible Bus	Accelerate retirement of the largely	The Disability Standards for Accessible
	Network	inaccessible Renault diesel buses and deliver	Public Transport, which were first
		complete accessibility of the entire network	implemented in 2002, included a 31
		within the next 1-2 years	December 2022 deadline for when the
			older buses would need to cease

Funding area	Initiative	Description/details	Evidence of need/rationale
			operation. Despite this, the older Diesel
			buses are still operating. Maintaining a
			mixed fleet means that travelers with
			disability can have limited confidence that
			a scheduled bus will not be replaced with
			an older inaccessible bus. Governments
			have had decades to make this transition
			and should now finalise it.
	Community transport	Funding for community transport including a	Community transport is an important
		safe accessible fleet at sustainable levels	transport service for people with disability
			and frail aged Canberrans to assist with
			transport to medical appointments,
			community activities, hospital and other
			essential appointments. Funding needs to
			be ongoing and guaranteed so services can
			upgrade fleet, modernise accessibility
			features and undertake business planning.
COVID disability response	Community development	Funding for online communities and	Many people with disability are continuing
	programs which address the	gatherings to help people with disabilities	to shield to avoid COVID based on medical
A funding package to	social inclusion of isolated	who are still shielding remain connected	advice and in line with Government
mitigate the effects of	people		policies urging people to take personal
COVID on people with			responsibility for their own health. Three
disability and other			years into the pandemic this is deepening
vulnerable Canberrans. This			and worsening isolation in an already
should include funding for			isolated group as connections fray and fall
public health measures,			away. On average, people with disability
service continuity, social			experience social exclusion <u>at double the</u>
inclusion and information to			<u>rate</u> of people without disability. Social
people with disabilities			inclusion can counteract isolation and
impacted by COVID19 and			increase community participation. This can
to implement			help to alleviate health problems,

Funding area	Initiative	Description/details	Evidence of need/rationale
recommendations from the			especially mental health issues such as
Long COVID inquiry			anxiety and depression.
	Funding to support and	Integrated programs which support people	The World Health Organization estimates
	mitigate long COVID –	with long COVID to be rehabilitated,	that long COVID affects 10-20% of people
Supports delivery of outcomes	rehabilitation, allied health,	connected to peer support and receive	who have a COVID-19 infection. A recent
under Wellbeing Indicator	disability advocacy, peer	advocacy.	study noted that, so far, 400,000
Access to health services,	support		Australians are likely to be left with
Community resilience to emergencies and Sense of			disabilities due to COVID with over 100,000
belonging and inclusion			people with a serious disability, and
belonging and melasion			another 300,000 with activity limiting
Enables compliance with CRPD			disabilities. Research warns that people
Article 11 – Situations of Risk			who have had COVID are at an increased
and Humanitarian Emergencies			risk of developing brain disorders such as
and Article 26 – Habilitation			psychosis, seizures or epilepsy, brain fog
and Rehabilitation			and dementia throughout the two years
			post initial infection.
VAD response package	Life gets better suicide	Funding for suicide prevention work to show	Studies have shown that people with
	prevention project	life gets better for people with disability and	disabilities are up to twice as likely to
A funding package to		address harmful perceptions and	experience suicidal ideation. Debates on
response to unintended		stereotypes of life with disability amplified	Voluntary Assisted Dying create an
outcomes, risks and support		by VAD debate	authorising environment for discussion
needs arising from the			suicide by a vulnerable group in the
introduction of Voluntary			community. Some people with disability
Assisted Dying in the ACT			who consider or attempt suicide early in
			their diagnosis change their minds after
			receiving improved quality of life or better
Supports delivery of outcomes			disability supports.
under Wellbeing Indicator	Support guarantee for those	Funding pool to ensure people seeking VAD	In Canada people requesting disability
Human rights and Feeling that	seeking VAD	are offered disability supports, healthcare	supports and healthcare are being offered
voice and perspective matter		and psychosocial supports to relieve stress,	assisted dying instead of supports. We
		pain and suffering. Supports principle that	seek an emergency pool of supports to be

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Enables compliance with CRPD		no-one should be offered VAD due a lack of	offered to people seeking VAD so this is
Article 10 – Right to Life		health, disability or psychosocial support.	not an unintended outcome in the ACT
	Additional advocacy support	Advocacy support for people impacted by	Debates on VAD in other jurisdictions have
		community debate around VAD and effected	led to a rise in hate speech, trauma and
		by hate speech	discussions about other forms of violence
			against people with disabilities.
			Governments have in the past supported
			communities experiencing trauma due to
			policy debates such as the same sex
			marriage poll.
			VAD in the ACT bookends an extended
			harmful conversation about the value
			assigned to the lives of people with
			disability and underlying health conditions
			across three years of the COVID19
			pandemic which has left a trail of negative
			attitudes in the community and trauma for
Dialogue on ancinement	A dialagua ya wa dhabba a ya	A dialogue to bairon to rethe en disphilite vicibite	disabled people.
Dialogue on environment,	A dialogue roundtable and	A dialogue to bring together disability rights	The debate on plastic straws and on
climate change and disability rights	policy piece linking disability rights, just transition and	and climate thought leaders to develop a series of shared principles for a just	disposable products have highlighted the need for an improved dialogue and
disability rights	climate transition	transition response to climate change and	understanding between the disability rights
Funding to deliver an	climate transition	waste reduction for people with disability	communities and the environmental
improved response to		plus an intersectional statement on the	movement to identify and occupy shared
climate change for people		disability rights imperatives to prevent and	ground.
with disability including a		mitigate climate change	ground.
disability rights based just		Thirtigate chimate change	A just transition means that those with the
transition			most responsibility for waste and
			emissions should shoulder a proportionate
			level of reduction effort and costs,
Supports delivery of outcomes			inconvenience and pressure of waste or
under Wellbeing Indicator			emission reduction measures should not

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Climate resilient environment and community and Healthy and resilient natural environment  Enables compliance with CRPD Article 5 – Equality and Non- Discrimination and Article 11 –		•	fall disproportionately on those with the least capacity to meet them. A healthy environment is a priority for our community, and especially significant for people with disabilities who are generally more vulnerable to the impacts of environmental degradation and climate
Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies			change.  An outcome could be a set of disability rights aligned principles to support a just transition to net zero as well as a deeper understanding of the impacts of climate change on people with disability.
Disability community control of disability events  Funding to improve, modernise and embed community control in ACT celebrations of the UN International Day of People with Disability	International Day of People with Disability – transition to community control	Funding to transition the International Day of People with Disability to community control including a small secretariat  Refresh of I-Day events to regain community support, modernize and improve celebrations in the ACT. Including a more diverse focus on disability arts, advocacy work The disability community should control the form, messaging and nature of events to mark our own International Day.	ACT DPO's and DRO's as well as the Disability Reference Group, Carers ACT and ACTCOSS have all indicated support for a different approach to IDAY in the ACT that reflects contemporary approaches to disability rights, disability pride and community control.
Supports delivery of outcomes under Wellbeing Indicator Sense of belonging and inclusion and Participation in community events and activities		,	

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Enables compliance with CRPD			
Article 8 – Awareness-raising			