

# DISABILITY PRIDE

## REMOVING BARRIERS SO EVERYONE CAN THRIVE

Canberra is a place where we all have the right to live full and active lives, where we celebrate the creativity, talent and skills of people who live and work here.

But there are many barriers in our society that stop the one in five Canberrans who have a disability from reaching their full potential. Our systems are set up to view disability as a burden and fit people with disability inside a box - where you need to pass a test to get access to the basic things you deserve as a human.

We need to break the mould of society's expectations and focus on a strengths-based understanding of disability, rather than a medicalised model. Disability pride creates empowered, inclusive and accessible communities. It recognises diversity in the way our bodies and minds work as a normal part of human existence, and breaks down society's physical, attitudinal, communication and social barriers.

With the ACT Greens in Government we have ensured people with disability, as well as their families, carers and nominees, are actively involved in policy, service planning and delivery.

We have successfully protected the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from independent assessments, ensured people with disability are heard in the NDIS Review process, championed the [ACT Disability Strategy \(2024-2033\)](#) consultation process where every conversation was co-designed and led by a person with disability, and led national reform to improve minimum accessibility standards for new residential homes.

We will go further to transform Canberra into a city that embeds disability pride in all aspects of our community.

### THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- Support workplaces to provide meaningful, inclusive and fair-pay employment opportunities for people with disability
- Fund scholarships for 20 students per year to learn AUSLAN
- Provide grants for disability-led events and activities
- Establish a peer support network for the families and carers of young children who have a disability
- Ensure disability reform is led by people with disability

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

## MEANINGFUL AND INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

People with disability face a wide range of barriers to accessing meaningful employment that provides a liveable income.

The ACT Greens will ensure businesses and community organisations build their skills, confidence and understanding to recruit and retain people with disability.

We will fund a business peak body to support employers across the ACT to create more inclusive and accessible workplaces that provide a liveable wage.

This is aligned with the [Employ My Ability](#) strategy in Australia's Disability Strategy.

**INVESTMENT: \$1.2M OVER FOUR YEARS**

## AUSLAN TRAINING

The ACT Greens will fund the DeafConnect Diploma of AUSLAN 19 week online course for 20 students every year, to enable more Canberrans to become proficient in Auslan and help our community become more inclusive to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Increasing access to this course will support more people in the community to develop inclusive communications

skills, encourage more students to consider going on to the Diploma of Interpreting course, and build demand for courses to be offered at CIT in future.

**INVESTMENT: \$1.029M OVER FOUR YEARS**

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PEER SUPPORT NETWORK

Supporting families and carers of young people with a disability fosters stronger connections, social cohesion and better outcomes.

We will support and resource a community organisation to facilitate a peer support network for the families and carers of young children (up to nine years old) who have a disability.

Families and carers of young children will have opportunities to share knowledge, experiences, and learnings in a safe and supportive environment. It will make it easier for them to find, access, and understand information and services so their little one has the best childhood as they grow, learn and play in Canberra.

**INVESTMENT: \$600K OVER FOUR YEARS**

## DISABILITY PRIDE GRANTS

Celebrating the diverse ways our bodies and minds work breaks down barriers so everyone can live fulsome lives in the ACT.

Currently the ACT Government provides Disability Inclusions Grants to

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businesses and organisations to address barriers to inclusion.

But we will go further - the ACT Greens will create an additional grant program focused on disability pride. It will celebrate people with disability and recognise the way their bodies and minds work as a normal part of human existence.

These grants are available for people with disability and their organisations to host disability-led events and activities.

**INVESTMENT: 600K OVER FOUR YEARS**

## DISABILITY REFORM

### NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

We all want Canberra to be accessible and inclusive for everyone, enabling everyone to enjoy a fulfilling life in a community that celebrates diversity. It is our responsibility as a community to remove the barriers within society that result in disability.

But many people with disability experience disadvantage across all life domains, including increased experience of violence, reduced life expectancy, higher rates of poverty, lower employment, poorer educational outcomes, and unequal access to justice.

These experiences are reflected in the findings of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

of People with Disability, during consultation for the Disability Health Strategy, and in the Listening Report for the ACT Disability Strategy Consultation.

When we truly listen and co-produce policies with people with disability we remove barriers to inclusion and improve outcomes in education, training, employment, housing, health care and community participation. It also reduces the chances of avoidable hospitalisation or institutionalisation and decreases the need for specialist services.

The ACT Greens will:

- Improve the range of foundational support for Canberrans as part of future reforms to the NDIS
- Implement the ACT Disability Strategy's First Action Plan
- Implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

**INVESTMENT: THE ACT DISABILITY STRATEGY IS ALREADY FUNDED. THE NDIS REFORMS AND ACT RESPONSE TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S FINDINGS ARE STILL IN PROCESS.**