#### **Overview of the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020**

The *National Disability Strategy 2010-2020* is Australia’s whole of government plan for the progressive implementation of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The Australian government undertook significant consultation with people with disability, their families and carers to inform the strategy. This process reflected the fact that people with disability are their own experts and are best-placed to provide input on issues that affect them. Most importantly, it ensured that the Strategy was truly reflective of the priorities of people with disability across Australia.

The final Strategy includes six core outcome areas. Each of these outcome areas then includes a number of policy directives to help guide the work of governments in meeting that particular outcome. An overview of the Strategy follows:

**Outcome area 1- Inclusive and accessible communities**

* Increased participation of people with disability, their families and carers in the social, cultural, religious, recreational and sporting life of the community.
* Improved accessibility of the built and natural environment through planning and regulatory systems, maximising participation of all community members.
* Improved provision of accessible and well-designed housing with choice for people with disability about where they live.
* A transport system that is accessible for the whole community.
* Communication and information systems that are accessible, reliable and responsive to the needs of people with disability, their families and carers.

**Outcome area 2 - Rights protection, justice and legislation**

* Increase awareness and acceptance of the rights of people with disability.
* Remove societal barriers preventing people with disability from participating as equal citizens.
* People with disability have access to justice.
* People with disability to be safe from violence, exploitation and neglect.
* More effective responses from the criminal justice system to people with disability who have complex needs or heightened vulnerabilities.

**Outcome area 3 - Economic security**

* Increase access to employment opportunities as a key to improving economic security and personal wellbeing for people with disability and their families.
* Income support and tax systems to provide an adequate standard of living for people with disability, their families and carers; while fostering personal financial independence and employment.
* Improve access to housing that is affordable and provides security of tenure.

**Outcome area 4 - Personal and community support**

* A sustainable disability support system which is person-centred and self-directed, maximising opportunities for independence and participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the community.
* A disability support system which is responsive to the particular needs and circumstances of people with complex and high needs for support.
* Universal personal and community support services are available to meet the needs of people with disability, their families and carers.
* The role of families and carers is acknowledged and supported.

**Outcome area 5- Learning and skills**

* Strengthen the capability of all education providers to deliver inclusive high quality educational programs for people with all abilities from early childhood through adulthood.
* Focus on reducing the disparity in educational outcomes for people with a disability and others.
* Ensure that government reforms and initiatives for early childhood, education, training and skill development are responsive to the needs of people with disability.
* Improve pathways for students with disability from school to further education, employment and lifelong learning.

**Outcome area 6 - Health and wellbeing**

* All health service providers (including hospitals, general practices, specialist services, allied health, dental health, mental health, population health programs and ambulance services) have the capabilities to meet the needs of people with disability.
* Timely, comprehensive and effective prevention and early intervention health services for people with disability.
* Universal health reforms and initiatives address the needs of people with disability, their families and carers.
* Factors fundamental to wellbeing and health status such as choice and control, social participation and relationships, to be supported in government policy and program design.