

Disability rights

Stats
& Facts

Australia signed up to the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008**. Its goals are to make sure that everyone with disabilities can fully enjoy their human rights and freedoms, and to promote respect and dignity for people with disability.

Unfortunately, people with disability in Australia face many barriers to achieving their rights and full participation in society. Many people with disability are experiencing violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation in the workplace, in private, and in public life.

1 in 5

people
in Australia

have disability.¹



3 in 4

say their main form
of impairment is

physical

1 in 4

say their main form
of impairment is

**mental or
behavioural.**²



In 2023 – 24, **the most common areas** of the Disability Discrimination Act under which people made complaints were:

**Goods, services,
and facilities (33%)**

Employment (29%)

**Disability
standards (12%)**

Education (11%)³

**Families of students
with disability reported
that their school:**



39%

Provided **inadequate support**

24%

Told the student they would do better if they were at a **segregated school**

20%

Regularly **excluded them from broader school activities** (e.g. assemblies, sport, school exclusions)

17%

Used **restrictive practices** to manage behaviour⁴

1 in 10

school students with disability **go to a segregated school.**⁵

Over 1 in 2

adults with disability
have experienced

**physical or
sexual violence**

since the age of 15.

People with a **psychosocial disability, acquired brain injury, or intellectual disability** are particularly at risk.⁶

2x

People with disability are more than **twice as likely** than people without disability to be **unemployed** ⁷

Increasing the number of people with disability **who are employed by 10%** would raise national economic output by

\$16 billion per year. ⁸



Only 10% of people with disability

in Australia are eligible for the **NDIS** ⁹



It is estimated that **less than 5%** of housing stock

is suitable for a person with a

mobility disability ¹⁰

57%

Only 57% of young people with disability say they feel **included in the LGBTQA+ community.**

21%

Only 21% of LGBTQA+ young people with disability feel their LGBTQA+ identity is **supported by the NDIS or disability support services.** ¹¹

1 in 6

adults **with disability are living in poverty,** compared with just over

1 in 10

Australians **without disability.** ¹²

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024, July 4). [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings](#). Australian Government, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Based on the ABS definition of disability. 1 in 5 = 21.4%.
 2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024, April 23). [People with disability in Australia - How many people have disability?](#) Australian Government, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 3 in 4 = 77%.
 3. Australian Human Rights Commission. (2024). [2023-24 Complaint statistics](#). Table 15 *Disability Discrimination Act - Complaints received by area*, p. 16.
 4. Poed, S., Cologon, K., & Jackson, R. (2017, October). [Gatekeeping and restrictive practices with students with disability: results of an Australian survey](#) [Conference session]. Inclusive Education Summit, Adelaide, Australia, pp. 6 - 7.
 5. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024, April 23). [People with disability in Australia - Type of school or class](#). Australian Government, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (1 in 10 = 12%). Students = Foundation year to senior secondary students.
 6. Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. (2023). [Final Report Volume 3: Nature and extent of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation](#), pp. 88 - 91. Adults = aged 18 - 64
 7. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (October 2019). [44300D0010 Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings](#). Employment characteristics of people with disability - Unemployment. More than twice as likely = people with disability 10.3%, people without disability 4.6%.

8. Buckland, A., Dockery, M., Duncan, A., Sanchez Arenas V., Sotirakopoulos, P., Twomey, C., & Loan Vu, L. (2024). [Employment and Disability in Australia - Focus on the States Series, No. 10/24](#). Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, p. 99.
 9. Layton, N. & Brusco, N. (2022). [The Australian Assistive Technology Equity Studies: Improving access to assistive technology for people with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS](#). Monash University; COTA Victoria, p. 5.
 National Disability Insurance Agency. (2024). [NDIS Quarterly report to disability ministers Q3 2023-24 Full report](#).
 10. Australian Network for Universal Housing Design; Rights & Inclusion Australia. (2016). [Proposal For Change - National Construction Code Series - Accessibility in Housing](#), p. 11. This is an estimated figure that the current voluntary approach to adopting Liveable Housing Guidelines was expected to reach less than 5% of the 2020 target.
 11. Hill, AO., Lyons, A., Jones, J., McGowan, I., Carman, M., Parsons, M., Power, J., & Bourne, A., (2021). [Writing Themselves In 4: The health and wellbeing of LGBTQA+ young people in Australia](#). Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University: Melbourne, p. 157. Young people = aged 14-21.
 12. Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B., & Wong, M. (2018). [Poverty in Australia, 2018 ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2](#). ACOSS, UNSW: Sydney, p. 59.