



Supporting Participation Program - 2026-27

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities outlined in this document relate to the international human rights forums funded under the Supporting Participation Program in 2026-27:

- 20th Session of the United Nations (UN) Conference of States Parties (COSP20) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), UN Headquarters New York, United States of America (USA), 9 to 11 June 2027
- 71st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71), UN Headquarters New York, USA, 8 to 19 March 2027; and
- Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), Sendai, Japan, 25 to 29 October 2027.

An Easy Read version of this document is available as 'Australian Human Rights Commission Roles and Responsibilities part 1 – Easy Read', 'Australian Government Roles and Responsibilities part 2 – Easy Read', and 'Disability Organisations Roles and Responsibilities part 3 – Easy Read'.

Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)

Strategic Objectives

- Support civil society, including people with disability, to take part in implementation and monitoring of the CRPD.
- Build capacity of civil society organisations to participate in the international human rights system.
- Advance and strengthen human rights through international engagement, cooperation and exchange in the international human rights system.
- Maintain international standing as a strong National Human Rights Institution representing human rights in Australia and contributing to human rights advancements globally.
- Share and learn about best practice implementation of the CRPD.

Support for the Australian delegation

- Run a fair and open Expression of Interest (EOI) process, including to:
 - Work with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department) to set the selection rules and application documents.
 - Assess applications in a fair and objective way.
 - Give the department a recommendation report, with rating scores and funding advice.
 - Tell applicants the results after the department's decision has been made.

- Maintain a website with all relevant information.
- Support activities and delegates before and after each forum with Government departments.

AHRC Contact Information

- Organisations and delegates can contact the AHRC at disability@humanrights.gov.au about the EOI process, and ideas for activities before and after each forum.

Australian Government

Strategic Objectives

- Show Australia's commitment to disability equity and rights as part of the official delegation, including:
 - representing Australia at meetings.
 - delivering national and joint government statements.
 - sharing Australia's domestic policy, best practice and lessons learnt.
 - meeting with other countries.
 - supporting ministerial attendance (if applicable).
- Maintain and where possible advance Australia's reputation as a global leader on disability inclusion and rights.
- Show that Australia values the role of civil society, including persons with disabilities and their representative and advocacy organisations, at the UN.
- Support the Australian civil society to take part in CRPD monitoring and delivery.
- Strengthen and build existing partnerships / relationships / networks and facilitate new relationships to advance disability policy internationally.
- Share and learn about best practice implementation of the CRPD.

Support for the Australian delegation

- Contribute funding for civil society delegates to participate in international human rights forums. This is done through the Supporting Participation Program.
- Make final decisions about grant funding, using the AHRC recommendation report.
- Share information from the UN when it is available.
- Support organisations and delegates before, during, and after each forum.
- Provide on-the-ground support and information/updates where possible. This may include where appropriate:
 - Australia's Mission to the UN in New York
 - UN Secretariat/Bureau
 - Networking events.

Australian Government Contact Information

Participating Australian Government departments can be contacted through the department SystemicDisabilityAdvocacy@health.gov.au

Questions will be sent to the relevant department for response. This may include questions about funding, accessibility requirements for forums and preparatory events, and ideas for activities before and after each forum.

Disability representative and advocacy organisations

Roles and responsibilities

- Have accreditation through the ECOSOC Consultative Status or have relevant accreditation to the forum, such as COSP Accreditation (for COSP20).
- Make sure all staff and delegates follow work, health and safety rules.
- Check UN websites for information and share with delegates.
- Support delegates with wellbeing, administrative and logistical needs, making sure delegates:
 - have passports, visas, insurance and other travel documents
 - follow the laws of the country the forum is held in, and transit countries
 - follow relevant UN policies and protocols
 - find events of interest and networking opportunities.
- Check and manage risks linked to the travel (both directions) and taking part in the forum, including through [Homepage | Smartraveller](#).
- Share outcomes and information from the forum, including key issues, decisions, events and meetings.
- **Organisations must give the full funding to the successful applicant. They must not withhold funding for administration costs or in-kind supports.**

Requirements under the Supporting Participation Program (self-funded delegates can choose to meet these requirements):

- Work with the Australian Delegation, including civil society delegates and the government delegation.
- Work with other organisations to ask for their ideas and advice on issues to discuss, including interventions.
- Take part in activities before and after the forum arranged by the department.
- Take part in delegation activities.
- Reply to requests for information on time. This includes contact details and consent forms.

Requirements under the Supporting Participation Program (self-funded delegates do not need to meet these requirements):

- Complete grant agreement deliverables by the due date.
- Support delegates to attend more than 60 per cent of in-person events for their time spent at each forum in which they are funded to participate.
- General Delegation members will actively support the full delegation and mentor at least one Emerging Young Leader delegate.