



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

The 17th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP17)

What our delegates should do
and how they will get support

Easy Read version



How to use this document



When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS).



We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **31**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



We can send you the other document and answer any questions you have by email.

sector.engagement@dss.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

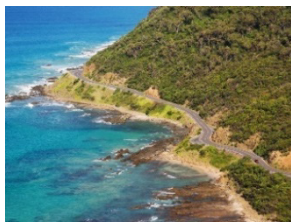


This report includes photos of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It may contain images of people who have passed away.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia.



They were the first people to live on and use the:

- land
- waters.

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About the Conference of States Parties (COSP)



The Conference of States Parties (COSP) is an event that happens every year.



COSP is a meeting between different countries about the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



COSP will happen at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York.

About COSP17



The 17th session of COSP will happen from 11 to 13 June 2024.

It is called COSP17.



We will support Australia's **delegates** to take part in COSP17.



A delegate is a person who:

- is part of an organisation
- speaks for their organisation
- speaks up about their experiences.

The delegates will include people from:



- the Australian Government

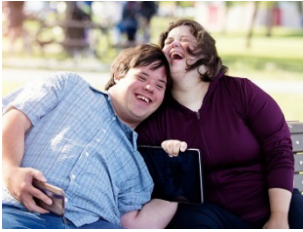


- the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)



- organisations that speak up for people with disability.

The delegates will also include:



- people with disability



- young people with disability who show they have the skills to be good leaders.



AHRC and 2 organisations from the Australian Government will work together to support the delegates.

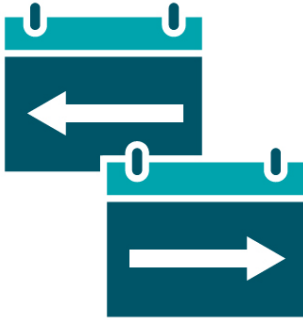
The 2 organisations from the Australian Government are:



- the Department of Social Services (DSS)



- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).



DSS will manage meetings and activities for delegates with support from AHRC and DFAT:

- before COSP17
- after COSP17.

In this document, we explain:



- what delegates should do when they take part in COSP17



- how the Australian Government will support the delegates to take part.

What delegates should do



There are 2 types of delegates who can take part in COSP17.



Some delegates will have **funding** to take part.



Funding is money from the government that supports delegates to take part in COSP17.



Some delegates won't have funding to take part.



On the following pages, we explain some things that delegates should do.

What all delegates should do

Before COSP17



Delegates should understand the challenges that people with disability face.

To learn about these challenges, delegates should work with:



- other delegates



- other organisations that speak up for people with disability



- the Australian Government



- AHRC.

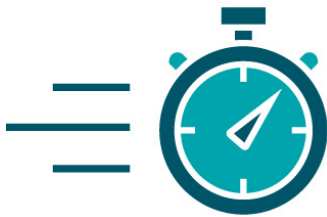
This will help them think about:



- what events they should go to at COSP17



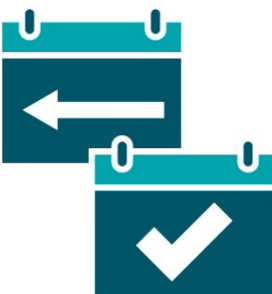
- who they should meet.



Delegates should respond quickly if DSS needs information from them.



For example, if DSS needs a delegate to sign a form.



They should also respond quickly if the Australian Government or AHRC asks them to take part in any activities:

- before COSP17
- at COSP17.

Delegates should understand the risks they face when they:



- take part in COSP17
- travel to and from New York.

For example, the airport could take away their medicine if it is banned in that country.

All organisations should:



- support their delegates to take part in COSP17



- check the laws for each country that delegates will travel through to get to New York



- learn the UN's rules from the UN website



- share this information with their delegates.

Going to COSP17



All delegates should have up-to-date documents to travel to New York.

For example, they should have a passport.



They might also need a **visa**.

A visa is a document that says you can go to another country for a certain amount of time.



At COSP17, delegates should try to meet people and build new relationships.

Following the rules



All delegates must meet the rules about who can take part in COSP17.



Delegates also need to follow the rules about health and safety.



They need to follow the rules about how the UN works.



And delegates need to follow the laws of:

- the USA
- any countries they travel through to get there.

What delegates with funding must do



Delegates that have funding must follow the agreement for their organisation's **grant**.

A grant is how organisations get funding to take part in COSP17.



Delegates from the community who have funding need to support young people who take part in COSP17.

Young people who take part in COSP17 will be in the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation.



Delegates with funding must take part in at least 2 days' worth of in-person events at COSP17.



This can include helping to run or manage a side event at COSP17.

Delegates with funding need to work with other delegates from:



- the Australian Government



- AHRC



- other organisations that speak up for people with disability.

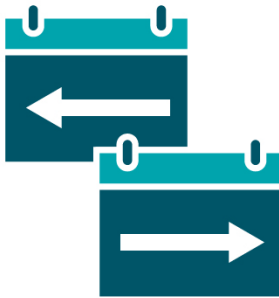


They also need to share what they learned at COSP17 with the:

- government
- community.



This includes information about other events or meetings where people can learn more.



Delegates with funding also need to take part in information sessions:

- before COSP17
- after COSP17.

What AHRC will do

What AHRC does now



AHRC supports human rights in Australia and all over the world.



AHRC supports people with disability to take part in decisions that affect them.



AHRC also supports people with disability to learn about the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (the CRPD).



The CRPD is an agreement between different countries.

It explains how people must respect the rights of people with disability.



Australia is working to make sure our rules and laws support the rights of people with disability.

AHRC also supports people and communities to:



- understand their rights



- speak up about their rights.

How AHRC will support the delegates

Grant applications

AHRC will work with DSS to decide:



- which organisations will get funding to take part in COSP17
- what each organisation needs to include in their **application**.



An application is a form you have to send in to AHRC to ask for a grant.



AHRC will support community organisations to make applications in different formats.

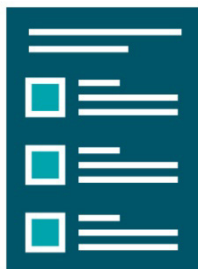
For example, the applications can be:



- an audio recording



- a video recording



- a document.



If an organisation gets a grant, they will get funding to take part in COSP17.

AHRC will make it easy for everyone to find out:



- how the application works
- what organisations should include in their application.

AHRC will put this information on a website.



They will be fair when they check each application.

Reporting on the grant applications

After they check the applications, AHRC will make a report to DSS about:



- which delegates they think should get funding



- the amount of funding they think these delegates should get.



AHRC will also score each part of the application.



DSS will check the report.

And DSS will decide:

- which delegates will get funding
- how much funding each delegate will get.

AHRC will tell each organisation:



- if they got a grant



- how much funding their delegate will get.

What DSS and DFAT will do

What DSS and DFAT do now



DSS and DFAT help support the rights of people with disability.

DSS and DFAT support people with disability to take part in:



- decisions that affect them



- activities to learn about the CRPD.



DSS and DFAT build on the relationships that Australia has with other countries and organisations.

And they also aim to create new relationships.

DSS and DFAT share their ideas and learn about the best way to:



- support the rights of people with disability



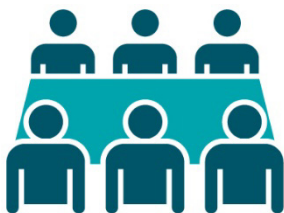
- follow the CRPD.

What DSS and DFAT will do at COSP17

At COSP17, DSS and DFAT will:



- speak for Australia and share the ideas of our government



- have meetings with other countries.

DSS and DFAT will also:



- learn about how other countries follow the CRPD



- show how we support the rights of people with disability in Australia.



DSS and DFAT will provide information to organisations to support their delegates while they are at COSP17.



DSS may also support **ministers** to take part in COSP17.

A minister leads an area of the government.

How DSS will support the delegates



DSS will give funding for delegates to take part in COSP17.



They will read AHRC's report about the grant applications.



And they will make the final decision about how much funding each delegate will get.

DSS will share information they get from the UN about COSP17 with:



- organisations



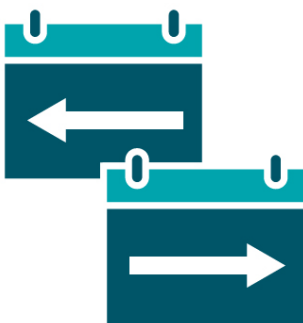
- delegates



- AHRC



- other parts of the Australian Government.



DSS will also manage meetings and activities for delegates with support from AHRC and DFAT:

- before COSP17
- after COSP17.

How DFAT will support the delegates

DFAT will work with the leaders of COSP to share information with:



- organisations



- delegates



- AHRC



- DSS.

Contact us



You can contact us if you want more information.

We will be the main point of contact.



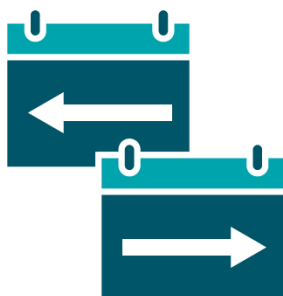
You can email us if you have questions or ideas about COSP17.

sector.engagement@dss.gov.au

You can also let us know if you need support to take part in:



- COSP17



- any activities before or after COSP17.

Contact the AHRC

You can contact the AHRC if you have any:



- questions about the grant applications



- ideas for activities before or after COSP17.



You can send them an email.

disability@humanrights.gov.au

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words mean.



Application

An application is a form you have to send in to AHRC to ask for a grant.



Delegate

A delegate is a person who:

- is part of an organisation
- speaks for their organisation
- speaks up about their experiences.



Funding

Funding is money from the government that supports delegates to take part in COSP17.



Grant

A grant is how organisations get funding to take part in COSP17.



Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.



Rights

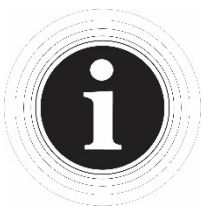
Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Visa

A visa is a document that says you can go to another country for a certain amount of time.



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