

Promoting inclusion and participation

Strategic Plan 2013-2015



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

PRN

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Foreword

I am delighted on behalf of the National Disability Authority to present to the Minister our Strategic Plan for the years 2013 to 2015. This sets out how, as the independent statutory advisory body on disability and universal design, we will focus our work in the coming three years to guide the Minister, Government Departments, public bodies and others on how to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities in the mainstream of Irish life.

The National Disability Authority is uniquely positioned, with its research role, its expertise and its statutory independence, to guide national policy and practices that impact on the daily lives of people with disabilities.

The National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan will chart the Government's targets on disability for the coming three years. This period is also likely to see Ireland's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which requires ratifying States to engage in a programme to achieve social, economic and cultural rights. Providing practical advice and guidance to Departments and public bodies on how to deliver on these commitments will be a core National Disability Authority role.

The continued difficult economic and fiscal circumstances pose a real challenge. They also offer an impetus and an opportunity to do things differently, and support people with disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice and control in their lives. However, it is essential that the focus of any changes made is on achieving and maintaining good outcomes for people with disabilities, and that quality is not sacrificed in the search for cost-effectiveness.

Following a series of strategic and policy reviews, there are major changes expected in how disability services will be funded and delivered, with a greater focus on designing services and supports around the individual with a disability.

People with disabilities want to live normal lives in the community. That means having access to employment, to transport, to housing, to an income, like anyone else. It means living in, being accepted and being part of the community. We will undertake research and issue guidance to support practical progress on these matters.

A key focus of our work, through the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, is to encourage the creation of services, places, information and technology that are designed from the outset to be used by the widest range of people, regardless of age, size, ability or disability, without the need for further

adaptation. Good design from the outset makes good sense and is more cost effective in the long-term.

The National Disability Authority looks forward to working with the Minister, Departments and public bodies and the wider disability community to deliver on this programme of work.

Peter McKeivitt

Chairman

Mandate

The National Disability Authority's mandate is set out in the National Disability Authority Act 1999, with additional functions assigned under the Disability Act 2005, both of which are detailed in the appendix.

The overarching mandate of the National Disability Authority is, in summary, to provide advice and information to the Minister on matters concerning policy and practice in relation to people with disabilities and to assist the Minister in the co-ordination of disability policy. In doing so, the National Disability Authority has functions in relation to: research; assisting the development of standards; producing codes of practice; monitoring implementation of standards and codes of practice and recognising the achievement of good standards and quality, including through the provision of a disability equality awards system. The National Disability Authority has responsibility for monitoring the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector.

The National Disability Authority operates the statutory Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, promoting the design of the built environment, products, services and information and communications technology, so that they can be accessed, understood and used by all persons regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. The universal design role, while including disability, also extends beyond disability to consider design issues for all citizens, engaging with standards bodies, industry, professional bodies and educational institutions.

Mission

The National Disability Authority, as the statutory body on disability matters, provides information and independent expert advice to the Minister; assists the Minister in the co-ordination of disability policy; and promotes excellence in universal design to benefit the wider population

Vision

An Irish society in which people with disabilities enjoy equal rights and opportunities to participate in economic, social and cultural life; have choice and control over how they live their lives; and are enabled to reach their full potential.

An Ireland which accommodates the range of human diversity in the design of buildings and spaces, information technology and communications, products and services, so they can be accessed and used by everyone.

Values

The following values inform the work of the National Disability Authority:

- A focus on areas of work with the potential to make a real difference to people's lives, informed by the lived experience of people with disabilities.
- Adding value through independent, quality, evidence-based and objective research, advice and guidance to the public sector.
- Engaging with all relevant stakeholders as the independent advisor to the Minister on disability matters and universal design.
- A shared commitment to excellence and to public service, demonstrating integrity, flexibility, efficiency and value for money in delivering on our mandate.
- An ethos of teamwork, ethics, continuous improvement, openness, transparency and innovation to drive achievement.
- Always professional, respectful and ethical in our relationships and communications with internal and external stakeholders.
- Engagement in strategic collaborations to support the delivery of our statutory remit and to enable the most effective deployment of resources

Introduction

Since the National Disability Authority was established in 2000 we have built up a wealth of research and guidance resources to support progress in achieving the inclusion of people with disabilities in mainstream society.

Our policy advice is grounded in the evidence base we have brought together, by

- Undertaking original research
- Collating the national and international research evidence
- Analysis of the statistical data
- Documenting national and international good practice
- Consulting on the lived experience of people with disabilities

Our guidance resources include

- An online accessibility toolkit <http://accessibility.ie/>
- Building for Everyone design guidance
- Technical guidance on building and auditing accessible websites
- Safe evacuation and egress for people with disabilities

Policy context 2013-2015

The policy context of the next three years will be framed by

- The National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan
- Planned ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The European Union Disability Strategy and the Council of Europe Action Plan on Disability 2006-2015
- Refocusing of disability support services in the light of a number of strategic policy reviews, with greater emphasis on supporting people to live more independently in the community, with greater choice and control
- Continuing fiscal and economic challenges.

A key task of the National Disability Authority over the next three years will be to advise on practical implementation of these policy directions, recognising in particular that the focus on community will require building and strengthening of community capacity to integrate and support people with disabilities to live independent lives.

We will do this by building on the evidence to date taking account of the innovations that have emerged at local level in Ireland and in other jurisdictions. We will continue to guide on practical solutions in terms of systems and tools that can work in an Irish context:

- to ensure quality and effective supports to independent living
- to engage in cross-sectoral co-operation
- to establishing the kinds of supports that enable individuals to live as active citizens in their local community, conscious of their changing needs across the lifecycle

A majority of the around 400,000 people with disabilities rely principally on mainstream supports and services, supplemented by specific disability supports. A key part of our work will continue to be advice as to how mainstream services – such as transport, mainstream health services or telecommunications – can support people with disabilities to live independent lives. We will guide on systems to enable new technologies, such as telecare and telehealth, support people's independence to be realised.

Many of the issues affecting people with disabilities are also common to people as they age. That is why the universal design approach is so important, designing places, products and systems from the outset so that can be used by all.

Ireland is facing into a period of demographic change. The impact of that change for people with disabilities will be further researched and analysed, to guide on sustainable communities, services and supports.

Although economic times are and will remain challenging, there should be no dilution of the basic values and standards that should underpin supports to people with disabilities. As Ireland gradually comes out of recession, it will be important to ensure that people with disabilities are positioned to benefit from any economic upturn.

We will continue to engage with Government Departments, public bodies and local government as well as other key stakeholders to ensure that our work is of value and can make a real difference to the benefit of people with disabilities. We will also recognise the roles of the private and voluntary sectors in supporting the achievement of an inclusive society.

The National Disability Authority recognises the importance of our role in enabling a space for learning on good practice, discussion and problem solving through our conferences, seminars and round table events on specific areas of policy and practice. We will continue to forge strategic partnerships as part of a structured agenda as the statutory advisor on policy, practice, standards and

implementation, adopting an open and collegiate style of working while maintaining our independence.

We will provide a channel for listening to the lived experience of people with disabilities, in particular by managing an annual process of engagement through a listening forum, and through regular liaison with disability organisations.

As the Government's National Disability Strategy provides the basic framework to ensure a joined up approach across Departments and public bodies, we have set our first strategic priority to support its implementation and will focus on specific elements that fall for implementation in the next 3 years.

While many of the obligations arising from the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities can be delivered through implementation of the National Disability Strategy, the National Disability Authority considers that Article 19 in particular, which addresses living independently in the community, warrants a specific strategic priority in our plan for the coming 3 years. We will continue to work to identify models of good practice to deliver person-centred approaches including personal budgets, quality of services and supporting transition to the new models.

As an independent body we will also monitor the implementation of standards and codes of practice for continued improvement of public services. We will work with stakeholders to focus on specific areas that could be progressed to make services in the local community accessible.

While much of our work is focused on disability, our mandate to promote excellence in universal design takes us beyond disability to the impact of design on all members of society regardless of anyone's age, size, ability or disability. Therefore, our third strategic priority will be focused on looking at areas where we can best influence the adoption of a universal design approach in education and in developing products and services that are used everyday.

Conscious of the public sector transformation agenda and in light of the fact that the National Disability Authority is operating with less, we will continue to ensure we are a valuable resource working to best effect, adding value in line with our statutory remit by being responsive, flexible and creative with our available resources.

Strategic Priorities for National Disability Authority 2013–2015

Strategic Priority 1 - National Disability Strategy

To support the effective delivery of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan through our research, advice and guidance to Government Departments and public bodies and to monitor the outcomes for people with disabilities.

Strategic Priority 2 – Living independently in the community

To undertake and collaborate on research and data collection, and to provide information, advice and guidance to guide policy, systems and service changes to ensure that people with disabilities can live independently and participate in the community as active citizens.

Strategic Priority 3 – Universal design of the environment

To promote excellence in universal design in order to facilitate maximum participation in Irish society.

Strategic Priority 4 – Effective and efficient organisation

To develop an environment, supports, policies and systems to enable the National Disability Authority to effectively deliver on its strategic objectives.

Strategic Priority I

National Disability Strategy

To support the effective delivery of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan through our research, advice and guidance to Government Departments and public bodies and to monitor the outcomes for people with disabilities.

The National Disability Strategy provides a framework for a whole-of-Government approach to achieving the participation of people with disabilities in the economic, social and cultural life of the nation. The National Disability Strategy includes:

- **Disability Act 2005** which sets out accessibility and employment obligations for public bodies; provides for an independent assessment of need; and establishes the National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design
- **Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004** which provides for an inclusive education system; sets up the National Council for Special Education
- **Citizens Information Act 2007** which provides the basis for local mainstream information services and advocacy supports for people with disabilities
- Statutory **Sectoral Plans** (disability action plans) of six Government Departments which cover communications; environment; transport; social welfare; employment; and health and disability support services.
- Assessment of the impact for people with disabilities for all significant memoranda coming before Government for decision

Work is underway on a National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan to run to the end of 2015. This will have a broader reach than the original Sectoral Plans, extending to new policy areas and new Departments. It will also be a mechanism to advance commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will be important that the National Disability Strategy should also link into the national mental health strategy **A Vision for Change**, and to the strategies being developed for children and for older people.

The development and implementation of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan is supported by the National Disability Strategy Implementation Group which is chaired by the Minister of State with

responsibility for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People. The National Disability Strategy Implementation Group comprises representatives of the main Government Departments involved, the County and City Managers Association, the National Disability Authority and the Disability Stakeholder Group. The Disability Stakeholder Group was originally convened in 2006, but was re-established in November 2011, by the Minister of State, to include individuals with disabilities alongside representatives of disability organisations.

The National Disability Authority will continue to support the implementation of the strategy by Government Departments and public bodies and to support the measurement of progress on outcomes, through our research, advice papers and practical guidance.

Objective 1:

To undertake research, provide information and evidence-based advice to Government Departments and public bodies to support implementation of the National Disability Strategy

Key Performance Indicators

- Effective engagement with Government Departments and public bodies around implementation of the National Disability Strategy
- Advice to guide a 'whole-of-Government' approach to disability
- Effective participation in the National Disability Strategy Implementation Group and preparation of solution-focused advice papers to it
- Statutory Codes of Practice developed as requested
- Research on good practice to inform advice and implementation
- Facilitated forum to hear views of people with disabilities and reports on their input to these forums
- Timely response to requests from Government Departments and public bodies for advice, guidelines or other supports to implement the National Disability Strategy
- Monitoring effective delivery of National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan
- Dissemination of NDA guidance.

Objective 2:

To monitor the impact of the National Disability Strategy on the lives of people with disabilities, in particular through tracking and reporting on a suite of agreed outcome indicators

Key Performance Indicators

- Engagement with relevant stakeholders to ensure the availability of data for agreed outcome indicators
- Research, analysis and reporting on outcomes for people with disabilities

Objective 3:

To monitor and report on

- Employment of people with disabilities in the public service (Part 5, Disability Act 2005)
- Implementation of statutory Codes of Practice under the Disability Act 2005
- Implementation of other codes of practice, standards and guidelines, as appropriate

Key Performance Indicators

- Annual statutory report to the Minister on Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005
- Follow-up recommendations to any public bodies considered non-compliant in any two successive years
- Reports on compliance with statutory Codes of Practice
- Research, guidelines and seminars to guide and illustrate good practice delivered and disseminated

Objective 4:

To promote positive attitudes to disability

Key Performance Indicators

- Effective engagement with stakeholders to ensure a strategic approach to promoting positive attitudes;
- Identify areas that have yet to benefit from experiencing positive attitudes
- Co-ordinated actions fostered among a range of stakeholders
- Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of various promotion measures

Objective 5:

Provide advice and information to support ratification, and monitoring implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Key Performance Indicators

- Advice to Departments to support ratification and implementation

- Advice and guidance on mental capacity and supported decision-making
- Advice to the Central Statistics Office on statistical monitoring
- Advice and guidance on implementation of Universal Design (see Strategic Priority 3)
- Analysis of progress in implementation
- Analysis of statistical data collected, in line with Article 31, to formulate and implement policies that give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Monitor progress on universal design

Strategic Priority 2

Living independently in the community

To undertake and collaborate on research and data collection, and to provide information, advice and guidance to guide policy, systems and service changes to ensure that people with disabilities can live independently and participate in the community as active citizens.

Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires that people with disabilities can live independently and be included in the community, with choices equal to others. Much work has been undertaken to review current policies and systems to inform the achievement of this and to move away from segregated service provision. The Programme for Government (2011-2016) commits to the introduction of personalised budgets for disability services.

The National Disability Authority's policy advice, based on research evidence, and on learning from other jurisdictions, is that better outcomes for people with disabilities can be achieved by refocusing the current spending and orientation of disability services away from block-funding of providers and towards a more personalised approach. The National Disability Authority has advised on a transparent system of resource allocation, linked to individual need. The National Disability Authority has also advised on the introduction of more flexible models of support, focused on greater independence for individuals. This would result in the more efficient use of resources and better value from the monies invested in terms of individuals' quality of life.

This policy direction has been endorsed by the Expert Reference Group under the Department of Health's Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services (2011).

Moving to a different kind of disability service will involve different systems and practices. The National Disability Authority will research and guide on implementation, new ways of working, and on the systems and practices to be put in place to deliver new models of support.

It is also essential that new systems are responsive to changing needs over the lifecycle.

Objective 1

To support the transition to new models of person-centred supports promoting independence, choice and participation by people with disabilities in the mainstream community, through provision of research, information, advice and guidance

Key performance indicators

- Research on transitioning to new models of person-centred supports
- Guidance on efficient and appropriate models of assessment of need
- Guidance on developing supports for living and participating in the community
- Effective and strategic engagement with stakeholders
- Advice on role, and considerations in relation to, informal and family care

Objective 2

To support a transition to effective individualised funding and personal budgets for people with disabilities, through provision of research, information, advice and guidance

Key performance indicators

- Advice on appropriate model of individualised funding and personal budgets
- Research on critical steps in introducing individualised funding and personal budgets
- Guidance issued on financial frameworks for individualised funding and personal budgets
- Guidance on supports for individuals who avail of individualised funding and personal budgets
- Evaluation of process and outcomes for those living with individualised funding and personal budgets

Objective 3

To support an effective national resource allocation system for disability services, through provision of research, information, advice and guidance

Key performance indicators

- Research on resource allocation systems published
- Advice on transition to alternative resource allocation models

Objective 4

To conduct research on the implications of demographic change for services and supports for people with disabilities into the future

Key performance indicators

- Research paper(s) on aspects of demographic change
- Policy advice paper on implications of demographic change for services and supports

Objective 5

To identify key issues for people with disabilities across the lifecycle, through analysis of key data sets

Key performance indicators

- Engagement with Central Statistics Office and other data providers on inclusion of consistent indicators on disability in mainstream data collection.
- Analysis of key factors in relation to social inclusion and participation of people with disabilities, using the National Disability Survey
- Analysis of key factors relating to inclusion and well-being of children with disabilities, drawing on the National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland
- Analysis of key factors relating to inclusion and well-being of older people with disabilities, drawing on the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing survey

Objective 6

To engage with relevant stakeholders and guide on a quality assurance framework and standards to underpin the systems and supports that enable people with disabilities live in the community.

Key performance indicators

- Guidance on core elements of a quality assurance system developed
- Tailored guidance on standards in services issued for different, key, community actors (e.g. GPs, therapists in community practice)

Objective 7

To undertake research, gather data and provide advice to guide on national policies in relation to assistive technologies, telecare and telehealth in order to support individuals with disabilities, and others such as older people with support needs, to live full lives in the community

Key performance indicators

- Advice paper developed to guide on systems, structures and design of national programme
- Advice on universal design standards and guidelines for services and equipment.

Objective 8

To work towards recognition of good standards and quality in services to people with disabilities including recognition of disability equality

Key performance indicator

- Potential for disability strand in mainstream awards pursued and criteria identified

Strategic Priority 3

Universal Design of the environment

To promote excellence in universal design to facilitate maximum participation in Irish society

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design has worked to promote awareness and develop resources to promote universal design, including supporting the development of national and international standards. Its work relates to the design of the built environment, products and services, and information and communications technologies so that they can be used, accessed and understood by persons of any size, age, ability or disability, in the widest possible range of situations, without the need for adaptations, and in the most natural manner possible. Universal design promotes the fullest participation of every person.

The National Disability Authority will build on this work through collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, to promote further integration of universal design into curricula, examinations and continuing professional development for all relevant professions.

Objective 1

To promote universal design principles in an Irish context through engagement with stakeholders

Key performance indicators

- Agreed universal design principles promoted to key stakeholders.
- Research and information to guide national policies and the achievement of excellence in universal design.
- Established links with relevant stakeholders, including industry, to research and develop the commercial potential of universal design.

Objective 2

Advising and assisting in the development of national and international standards on universal design and promoting their implementation by national stakeholders.

Key performance indicators

- Engagement with standards bodies and stakeholders on standards as appropriate
- Standards promoted for adoption by national bodies

- Advice to guide standards on universal design homes.

Objective 3

To produce guidelines to support the achievement of universal design of everyday products and services to enhance quality of daily life for individuals and to promote independence across the lifecycle

Key performance indicators

- Relevant stakeholders consulted to identify key everyday products and services
- Advice on implications of size data on procurement and design of products.

Objective 4

To engage with education and accreditation bodies on a strategic approach to embedding universal design in continuous professional development, third level curricula and accreditation

Key performance indicators

- Strategic engagement to ensure universal design is integrated in broad spectrum of third-level courses.
- Engagement with accreditation bodies to incorporate universal design elements in core qualifications.

Objective 5

Promoting awareness and understanding of universal design.

Key performance indicators

- Inclusion of universal design promoted within existing awards schemes.
- Awareness programme, including seminars, established and delivered.

Strategic Priority 4

Effective and efficient organisation

To develop an environment, supports, policies and systems to enable the National Disability Authority to effectively deliver on its strategic objectives.

To continue to deliver a high quality output, and to ensure the priorities and objectives are delivered, will require efficient and effective organisational processes and systems that are consistently applied. In this regard, this priority will focus on enhancing processes to complement and reflect available human and financial resources, to lead to greater efficiencies and a high performing organisation. Leadership will be key in driving the continued achievement of objectives within the challenging external environment and fostering a culture of flexibility, innovation and ingenuity. This will include alternative ways of working, collaboration and partnerships with other organisations. The National Disability Authority's Partnership Committee will continue to be an important resource supporting the management of change. This priority sets out how the National Disability Authority will manage, support, develop and enhance its organisational resources (i.e. staff, finances, IT, communications, library, etc.) and continue to promote a learning culture to deliver effectively and efficiently on this strategic plan.

Objective 1

To ensure effective and efficient organisational systems and communications that support staff to deliver organisational objectives to a high performance standard

Key performance indicators

- Systems reviewed and enhanced as required (e.g finance, Performance Management and Development System)
- Internal communication in line with communication strategy

Objective 2

To ensure effective external communications

Key performance indicators

- Accessible and user-friendly website with regularly updated information and publications
- Development of effective dissemination strategy for National Disability Authority outputs

- Newsletter distributed quarterly to all relevant stakeholders

Objective 3

To maintain a library of resources to guide disability and universal design research and policy

Key performance indicators

- Maintain the library to support strategic areas of focus
- Enhance NDA on-line resources

Objective 4

To effectively implement the Human Resources Strategy, and complementary policies, to support staff in delivering on the strategic plan and annual work programmes of the National Disability Authority, and nurture a positive work culture

Key performance indicators

- Performance Management and Development System updated in line with public sector and good practice.
- Effective implementation of the Performance Management and Development System
- Comprehensive annual training plan developed and delivered
- Human Resources Strategy developed, and implemented
- Human resources policies reviewed and updated as required
- Effective reasonable accommodation policies and supports for staff implemented, where appropriate, promoting the National Disability Authority as a best practice employer

Objective 5

To ensure the effective delivery of statutory and regulatory responsibilities including those in the Disability Act 2005 and Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Key performance indicators

- Effective compliance with requirements under Part 3 and Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005 fulfilled
- Adherence to financial and governance requirements, including audit of financial statements and corresponding activity

- Health and safety processes, systems and practices updated and implemented where appropriate
- Implementation of an agreed effective organisational performance framework with Department of Justice and Equality

Measuring impact

The National Disability Authority will provide advice, information and guidance with the aim of achieving tangible improvements in the lives of people with disabilities.

Through its work on Universal Design, the National Disability Authority will promote the design of environments, products, services, and information and communications technology towards enhancing people's lives, and enabling people, regardless of age, size or disability, to access places, and mainstream products and services without the need for specialist adaptations.

The National Disability Authority will monitor the success of this Strategic Plan in a number of ways, including

- Regular review of the achievement of the key performance indicators outlined under each strategic priority
- Response to key opportunities as they arise over the period of the plan
- Annual workplans and their regular review, to include impact indicators where appropriate
- Quarterly meetings with the Disability Policy Department in the Department of Justice and Equality
- Regular engagement with our stakeholders, including people with disabilities and their representative groups
- Regular engagement with universal design stakeholders, including organisations representing people in different age groups

Appendix

Functions of the National Disability Authority under section 8 of the National Disability Authority Act 1999

The principal function of the National Disability Authority is to advise the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding issues of policy and practice relating to disability and to act as a central, national body which will assist the Minister in the coordination and development of policy in relation to persons with disabilities.

Additional functions:

- To undertake, commission or collaborate in research projects and activities on issues relating to disability and to assist in the development of statistical information appropriate for the planning, delivery and monitoring of programmes and services for persons with disabilities
- To advise the Minister on appropriate standards for programmes and services provided, or to be provided, to persons with disabilities and to act as an advisory body with regard to the development of general and specific standards in relation to such programmes and services
- To monitor the implementation of standards and Code(s) of Practice in programmes and services provided to persons with disabilities and to report to the Minister thereon
- To liaise with other bodies, both corporate and unincorporated, involved in the provision of services to persons with disabilities and to facilitate and support the development and implementation of appropriate standards for programmes and services for persons with disabilities
- To prepare Codes of Practice for the purpose of achieving the aim of good standards and quality in the provision of programmes and services provided or to be provided to persons with disabilities
- To recognise the achievement of good standards and quality in the provision of programmes and services to persons with disabilities including through the provision of a disability equality awards system
- To prepare strategic plans

Additional Functions of the Authority under the Disability Act 2005 include

- To prepare Code(s) of Practice relating to the accessibility of public buildings, services, information and heritage sites (section 30)

- To monitor compliance with statutory targets for recruitment and employment of people with disabilities in the public sector, recommend actions to be taken where these targets are not being met, and prepare Codes of Practice where requested (Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005)
- To establish a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design in the built environment and information technology which will promote the principles of universal design that may be accessed, understood and used to the greatest practicable extent by people regardless of age, size, ability or disability in the most independent and natural manner; in the widest possible range of situations; without the need for adaptation, modification, assistive devices or specialised solution (Part 6 of the Disability Act 2005)

Statutory Powers

In order to fulfil its statutory functions the National Disability Authority has certain statutory powers.

The National Disability Authority has right of access to information (including data) of relevance to its functions which is held by public bodies (section 13, National Disability Authority Act 1999) and may seek information on any matter which concerns the provision of programmes or services for persons with disabilities that is provided by statutory duty and that is publicly funded in whole or in part (section 14, National Disability Authority Act 1999).

The National Disability Authority can make recommendations for the review, reduction or withdrawal of moneys provided by the Oireachtas for any programme or service where it feels it is being provided in an inadequate or unsatisfactory manner or is not being provided to people with disabilities (section 15(4), National Disability Authority Act 1999).

The National Disability Authority can make annual reports and other reports to the Minister with respect to its functions (section 15, National Disability Authority Act 1999).