

Report on a public consultation on the National Disability Strategy



This is an Easy to Read version of the report.





Part 1: About the National Disability Strategy and the Public Consultation



Information about the consultation

	<p>This report is about a public consultation on the new National Disability Strategy.</p>
	<p>The National Disability Strategy is a plan to support the needs of disabled people.</p>
	<p>A consultation is when people are asked for their views and ideas.</p>
 <p>An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</p>  <p>Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais National Disability Authority</p>	<p>The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth is known as the DCEDIY. The National Disability Authority is known as the NDA.</p>

Information about the consultation

 <p>An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</p> 	<p>The DCEDIY asked the NDA for help with the public consultation on the National Disability Strategy.</p>
 	<p>Ireland agreed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018.</p> <p>This is known as the UNCRPD.</p>
	<p>The National Disability Strategy is an important part of putting the UNCRPD into action.</p>
	<p>This consultation looked at the barriers faced by disabled people in society.</p> <p>It looked at actions to make things better.</p> <p>These are in Part 2 of this report.</p>

How did we do the consultation?



We wanted the consultation to be accessible. Accessible means that everyone could take part.



We wanted to hear the views of Disabled Persons Organisations, known as DPOs.



We wanted to hear from children and adults with disabilities from different communities. We wanted to hear from people that communicate in ways other than speech.



We asked families, carers, and disability organisations to take part in the consultation.

How did we do the consultation?



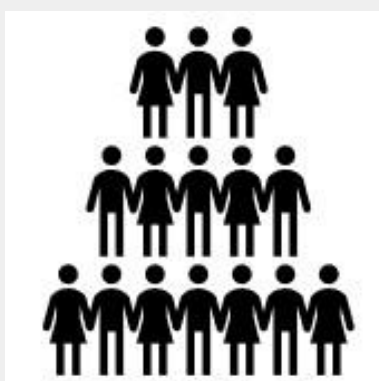
People took part in the way that was best for them.



They took part in interviews, focus groups, meetings, and in a national survey.
They sent their views in writing or in a video.



The interviews, meetings, and focus groups were held at different times of the day.
They were held on weekdays and at the weekend.



Almost a thousand people took part in the consultation.

The national survey: what we found



The survey looked at things that are important to disabled people's lives.

It looked at how disabled people feel they are treated.



The 3 most important issues raised were:

1. Getting health or social care services and supports.



2. Having enough money to cover the extra costs of having a disability.



3. Being able to get and use public or private transport easily.

The national survey: what we found



Many people said that health and social care staff were not aware enough of their disability. Being aware means to know about or understand something.



People said that family and friends were most likely to have enough disability awareness. The general public were least likely to have enough disability awareness.

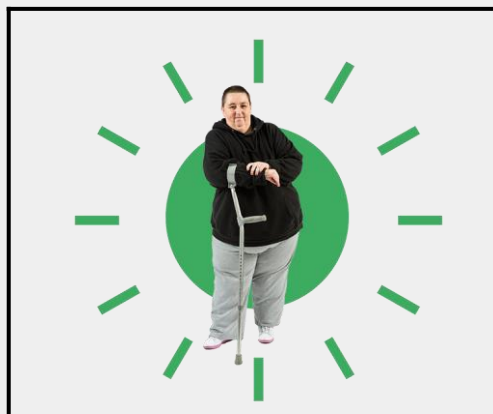


People giving public services were most likely to treat people differently because of their disability.

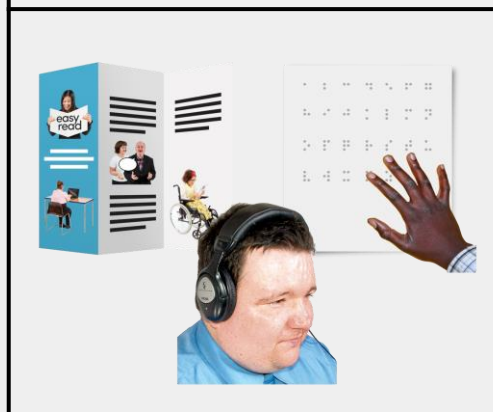


The survey showed a need for more public campaigns. This would help people to understand more about disability.

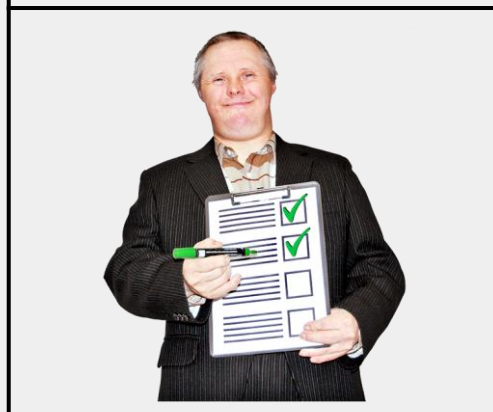
Putting the National Disability Strategy into action



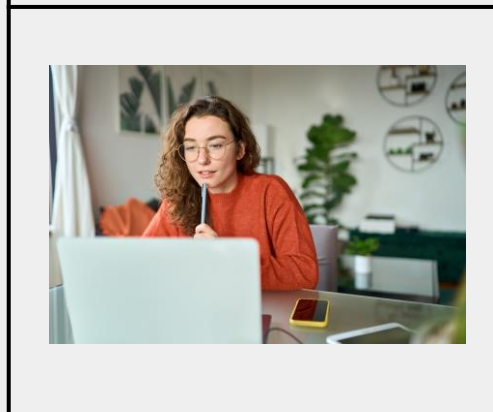
People said we must put disabled people and DPOs at the centre of the new National Disability Strategy.



They said we should communicate better and have accessible information about the Strategy.



People said that disabled people should help put the Strategy together and check if it is working.



They said we should support disabled people to get the skills they need to take part in the Strategy.

Putting the National Disability Strategy into action



People said that the new National Disability Strategy should be based on human rights.



They said we should use Plain English in the Strategy.



The Strategy should have certain beliefs, for example, respect, working together, inclusion. Inclusion means giving everyone the same chance to take part.



People felt that the Strategy should work to put the UNCRPD into action.

Putting the National Disability Strategy into action



People were disappointed that all the goals in the last National Disability Strategy were not put into action.



They said we need the whole government to work together on the new Strategy.
People should be held responsible if it is not put into action.

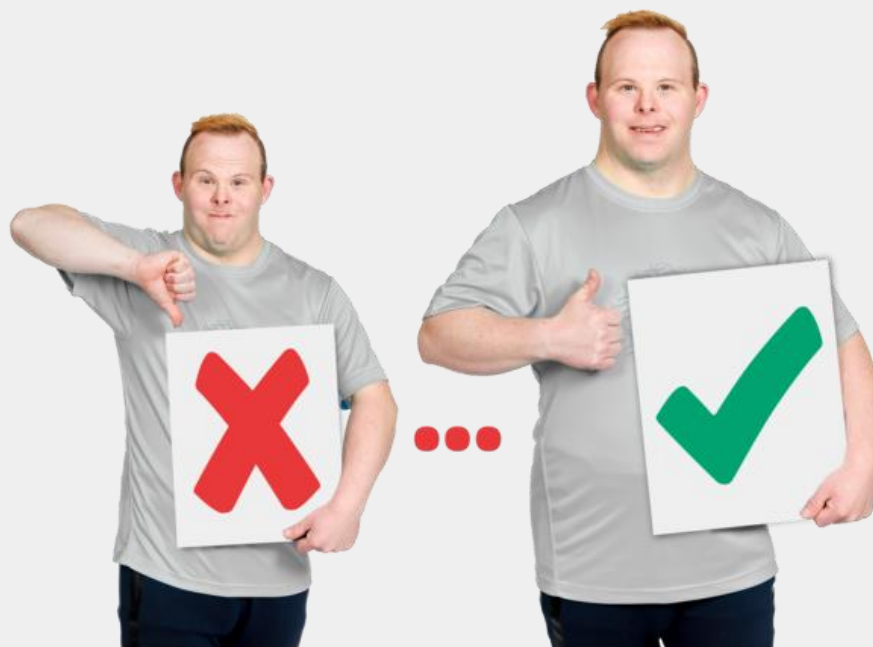


People want clear goals with dates when they will be achieved.
They want ways to measure progress.



They want disabled people to say what issues are most important to them.
They want the Strategy to support other plans and policies in Ireland.

Part 2: Barriers and Ways to Overcome Them



Nothing about us without us



People said that disabled people and their organisations should have more say in decisions that affect their lives.



It can be hard for DPOs to be part of decision-making.
They may not have enough money or staff.



Not all disabled people can speak up for themselves or have a DPO to speak with them.

Nothing about us without us

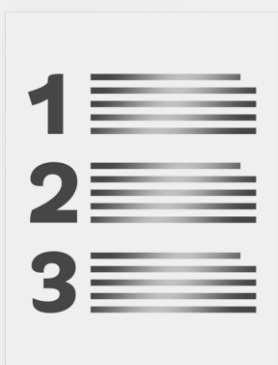


Some actions that would help are:

- More money and support for DPOs.



- More DPOs for people with high support needs and for children with disabilities.



- A list of DPOs so people can involve them at the start of any new policies in Ireland.



- Government departments should be honest about how they use the information from consultations to make decisions.

Awareness, attitudes, and discrimination



Many people had experienced bad attitudes and discrimination.

Attitude is what a person thinks about something, for example, disability.



Discrimination is when you are treated differently because you have a disability. It can affect the wellbeing of disabled people.



People felt that some bad attitudes happen because the public do not understand disability.



Some actions that would help are:

- Campaigns to make the public aware of disability.

Awareness, attitudes, and discrimination



- Disability equality training for anyone giving services to disabled people.



- Disability equality training for children and young people in schools.



- Make sure that disabled people are seen in public life and in communities.



- Make sure that disabled people are shown in a good way on radio, television, podcasts, and in newspapers.

Accessibility



People said physical, communication, information, and digital access are very important.



Assistive Technology is a human right.
It can support a person to communicate and to have a better life.



Some actions that would help are:

- More supports for Assistive Technology - given to individuals not organisations.



- All public buildings should be accessible.
It should not matter what this costs.

Accessibility



- Develop accessible cities, towns, villages, and rural areas.



- Give money to businesses and community groups to make their buildings accessible.



- More accessible public toilets and Changing Places toilets.



- Clear street furniture and things that block paths, roads, and car parks.

Accessibility



- Charge people money if they block the roads and paths.



- More accessible information, websites, and services, for example, easy read, video, Irish Sign Language, and Braille.

Health and social care services



People said it is hard to get assessments, services, and supports.

There are no services or long waiting lists in some parts of the country.



People said there is not enough money or staff for the services that are needed.

For example, therapies, respite, mental health supports, day services, and home care.



There is not enough information on services and supports, or enough planning for the needs of disabled people in the future.



Some actions that would help are:

- Equal access to services across the country.

Health and social care services



- Health and social care services that are fully accessible to disabled people.



- Make sure that people working in health and social care understand the different needs of disabled people.



- More money for health and social care services so disabled children and adults can get services when they need them.



- More respite services and home care supports.

Housing and independent living



People asked the Government to listen to disabled people about where they want to live and who they want to live with.



Some actions that would help are:

- Put in place and pay for a proper Personal Assistance service.



- More accessible housing.



- More home, residential, and community supports.
More home care so people don't have to rely on family members for personal care.

Education and training



People said that there needs to be more support for inclusive education.
This is when everyone can learn together.



They said it is hard for people with disabilities to move from school or college to training or work.



Some actions that would help are:

- An education system based on rights and with the child at the centre.



- More supports for inclusive education, for example, money, skilled staff, accessible spaces, places in mainstream schools.

Employment



People said that the Strategy should look at the things that stop disabled people from working if they want to.



People said that work is important for independence and wellbeing.
Application forms, interviews, and other ways of hiring people must be accessible to all.

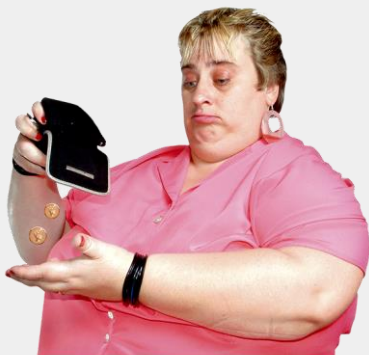


Some actions that could help are:

- More supports for disabled people to work, for example, personal assistants, Irish Sign Language interpreters.
- Make sure disabled people keep benefits, such as the medical card and free travel pass, when they start working.



Having enough money



People said there are extra costs to having a disability.

The money they get from Social Protection is not enough to live a decent life.



Some actions that would help are:

- A new cost of disability payment and more money in the Disability Allowance.



- Medical cards for all disabled people.



- A more accessible system for applications, appeals, and reviews.

Transport and mobility



Transport supports disabled people to be independent, take part in their community, work, and learn.



Disabled people and DPOs should have a say in decisions about transport.

Some actions that could help in this area are:



- More accessible, affordable, and available public and private transport.
More wheelchair spaces on buses and more accessible taxis.



- More organisations and departments working together on transport services.

Culture, recreation, leisure, and sport



People said it is hard to take part in activities if spaces and information are not accessible, and if there is no transport.



Some actions that would help are:

- A transport allowance to support people to get to social activities and health and fitness activities.



- More accessible spaces and more Changing Places toilets in shopping centres, hotels, cinemas, and swimming pools.



- More community groups so people with disabilities can meet others with shared hobbies and interests.

The justice system



There are barriers for disabled people to access the law and the justice system.

The justice system is the courts and people working in the law.



Some actions that can help are:

- Make the courts accessible to everyone, for example, by having access officers.



- Train people working in the justice system on disability awareness, rights, and on how to communicate well with disabled people.



- Laws to keep people with serious mental health issues away from the criminal justice system.

Abuse and violence



People said disabled people can experience more abuse and violence than other people.



Some actions that can help are:

- Accessible supports for disabled victims of abuse and violence.



- Access to victim support services for disabled women, for example, shelters and counselling services.



- Laws on hate crime that work.

Other important areas



People said the UNCRPD needs to be put into action.

Any laws on disability rights should be checked to make sure they follow the UNCRPD.



We should collect better information about disability, called data.

This will help us to put policies and plans together for the future.



Disabled people and their organisations should be able to give their views on the climate crisis.

They should have a say on plans for climate change or disasters.



Ireland should show its promise to disability inclusion in its work with other countries.

Caring for and supporting people with disabilities



During the consultation, people said that families and carers are very important. This needs to be said in the Strategy.



Carers felt that they did not get support from the State. They felt invisible and did not feel valued.



People said that there are money challenges for carers.



There are no systems to support parents to plan for their disabled child's future.

Caring for and supporting people with disabilities



Some actions that could help are :

- Better respite services for disabled children and adults.



- Better money supports and benefits for carers.



- Family support packages for parents and carers of people with disabilities.







- A service for carers that has counselling and advocacy training.

Part 3: Using information from the consultation



Using information from the consultation

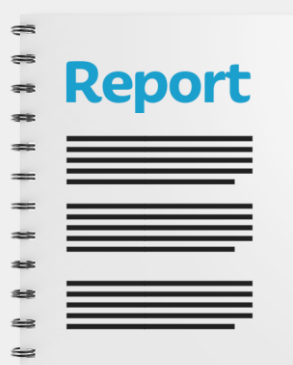
	<p>There were lots of ideas from the public consultation on the new National Disability Strategy.</p>
	<p>It will not be possible to put all these ideas into the new Strategy.</p>
	<p>We hope the information in this report can be used in other disability research and policies in Ireland.</p>
	<p>We look forward to the new Strategy that will support the human rights of all disabled people in Ireland.</p>



This Easy to Read report is from the
National Disability Authority.



Ace Communication helped to put
together this report.
Experts by Experience helped with this
information.



You can read the full report at
www.nda.ie

