

# International Day of People with Disability

## Community Conversation Guide

2025

Part 1





**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing**

The Australian Government Department of Health Disability and Ageing wrote this.

We say **DHDA** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means DHDA.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

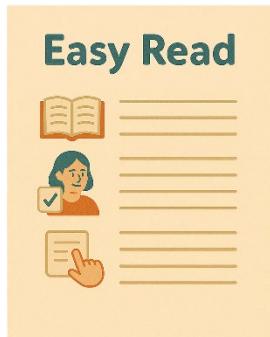
# Bold

# Not bold

We have some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



You can go to the website to look at the full document.

[www.idpwd.com.au/conversation-guide](http://www.idpwd.com.au/conversation-guide)



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask a

- Friend
- Family member
- Support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



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

- Land
- Waters.

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# About this document



This document has 3 parts.



**Part 1** talks about

- What **International Day of People with Disability** is

We call it **IDPwD** for short.



- Why we should talk about disability



- What is disability



## Part 2 talks about

- Talking about disability



- IDPwD themes

Themes are main ideas that will be talked about.



- Words are powerful



### Part 3 talks about

- Communicating with people with disability



- **Accessibility needs**

Accessibility needs are things that support people to take part.



- Where to find more information.



You can find the other parts on our website.

[www.idpwd.com.au/resources/conversation-guide](http://www.idpwd.com.au/resources/conversation-guide)



# What is International Day of People with Disability



**International Day of People with Disability**  
is on 3 December every year.

We call it **IDPwD** for short



IDPwD wants to **promote**

Promote means to encourage other people to do something.



- Community **awareness**

Awareness means more people know about something.



- Understanding



- Acceptance

Of people with disability.



Acceptance means being okay with someone.

Even the hard bits.

# Why we should talk about disability



Lots of people in Australia have a disability.



You or someone you know could have a disability.

It could be



- A family member



- A friend



- Someone you work with



- Other people in your community.



Talking about disability can help the community

- Know that people with disability are respected and important



- Be more **inclusive**

Inclusive is when everyone

- Can **take part**
- Feels like they **belong**



- Know more about disability.

# What is disability



There are lots of different types of disability.

Some you can

- See
- **Not see.**



Some disabilities last a

- Long time
- Short time.



**Support needs** can change.

Support needs are the things you need help with.

They are different for everyone.



Disabilities can be

- **Physical**

This can make it difficult to

- Move parts of your body
- Breathe

You might also have

- Pain
- Seizures.



- **Psychosocial**

Some people have a disability because of their mental health.

It is called a psychosocial disability.



- **Intellectual**

An intellectual disability can make it difficult to

- Learn new things
- Solve problems
- Communicate
- Do things on your own.



- **Sensory**

This can affect how you

- See
- Hear
- Speak.



There are different ways to talk about disability.

There are different models including the

- **Medical model**
- **Social model**



The medical model of disability looks at issues a person with disability has with their body.

Like if it is hard to walk.

It thinks the issues need to be fixed.



The social model of disability looks at barriers happening because of the

- **Environment**
- Community
- Attitudes.



The environment is everything around us.



Attitudes are what people

- Think
- Feel
- Believe.



The social model of disability wants to make the community

- More **accessible** for people with disability

Accessible means everyone can use it.



This means everyone is equal.



The social model of disability wants to take away barriers by having

- Better
  - Systems
  - **Policies**
  - Ways for people to do things



Policies are plans for how to do things.



This will give people with disability more chances to take part.

# Contact us



You can contact us if you **need more information.**



You can send us an email.

[idpwd@health.gov.au](mailto:idpwd@health.gov.au)



You can follow us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/idpwd](https://www.facebook.com/idpwd)



You can follow us on Instagram

[www.instagram.com/idpwd\\_au/](https://www.instagram.com/idpwd_au/)



You can look at our website.

[www.idpwd.com.au/](https://www.idpwd.com.au/)

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