



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



How should we change WA law about services and supports for people with disability?

Tell us what you think



Easy Read version

March 2023

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About this consultation paper



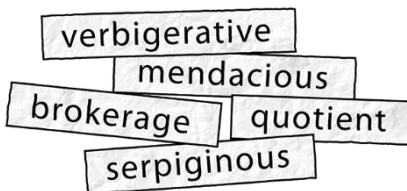
The WA Department of Communities wrote this paper.

When you see the word 'we' it means the Department of Communities.



We wrote this paper in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to help explain some ideas.



Hard words are in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.



This is an Easy Read version of our original Consultation Paper.

It includes the most important information about the consultation.



You can find the original Consultation Paper on [our website](#).



You can ask a family member, friend or support person to help you read this paper.

What is the consultation about?



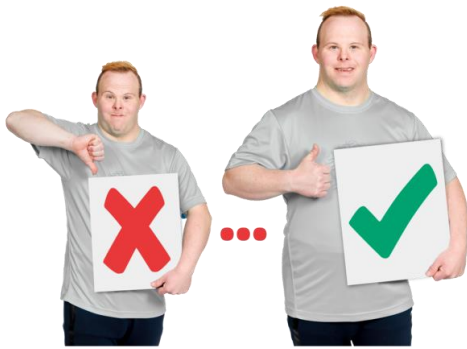
A **consultation** is when someone asks you what you think about important ideas.

This consultation is about a new WA disability Act to replace the *WA Disability Services Act 1993* or the DS Act for short.



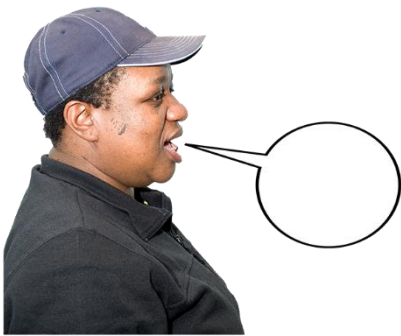
This is the WA law about how WA services and supports for people with disability should be run.

Other states and territories in Australia have their own laws.



We are looking at writing a new disability Act. We need to decide

- what should stay the same
- what needs to be better

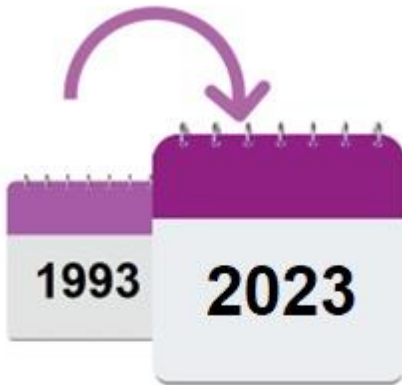


You can use this paper to tell us what you think about a new WA disability Act.



Your answers will help us learn what is important to people with disability in WA and what needs to change.

Why do we need a new disability Act?



The DS Act has not changed much since it was written almost 30 years ago.

But the way the Government supports people with disability has changed a lot.



For example, now we have the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The NDIS helps some people with disability to pay for the support services they need.

Some documents that tell us people with disability should be treated fairly and equally.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD for short) is an agreement between lots of countries. It says people with disability have the same rights as everyone else. Australia signed the UNCRPD in 2008.



The Australian Government and the WA Government made these **Disability Strategies**

- Australian Disability Strategy 2021 - 2031
- State Disability Strategy 2020 - 2030



The Disability Strategies are plans for how Australia should support people with disability in all areas of life.



There is also the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.**

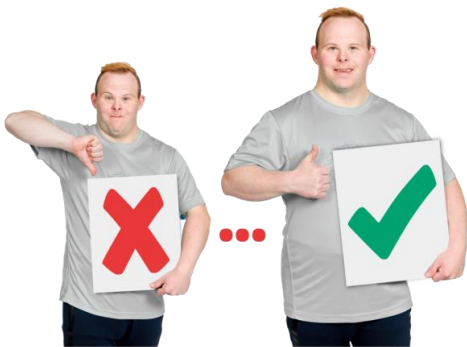
We call this the **Disability Royal Commission** for short.



The Disability Royal Commission has been looking into how people with disability have been hurt, treated badly or taken advantage of.



The Disability Royal Commission will tell the Australian Government how to protect people with disability from being hurt.



We want to make a new disability Act that works well with

- the NDIS
- the Disability Strategies
- the Disability Royal Commission

How to have your say



We want to hear from

- people with disability
- their families and carers
- disability service providers
- disability organisations

A survey card with a white background and a grey border. At the top left, it says "Tell us what you think" in bold black text. To the right is a small photo of a woman in a pink shirt with a thought bubble containing a question mark above her head. Below the title is the question "1. Do you think the idea is a good one?". Underneath are three checkboxes: "Yes" (unchecked), "No" (checked with a blue checkmark), and "Not sure" (unchecked). A hand holding a black pen is shown at the bottom right, pointing towards the "No" checkbox.

In this paper we explain our ideas and ask you some questions.

There are boxes under each question for you to write or draw your answers.

A vertical list of three checkboxes on a light grey background. Each checkbox is followed by five horizontal lines representing a text box for an answer. The top checkbox is checked with a green checkmark, while the middle and bottom checkboxes are unchecked.

You don't have to answer all the questions.

You can just answer the ones you want.

There are lots of ways to tell us what you think



- by mail

Department of Communities,
Strategy & Partnerships (Office of
Disability)
Locked Bag 5000
Fremantle WA 6959



- by email
disabilitylegislationteam@communities.wa.gov.au

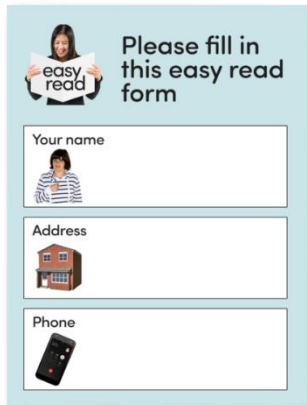


- by calling us
0421 978 786
Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm



- by filling in the form on [our website](#)

We ask you to tell us



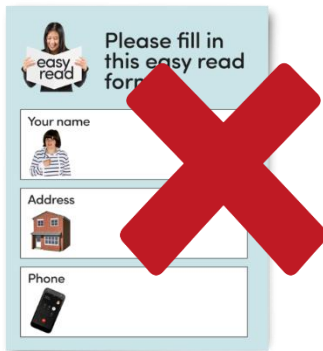
Please fill in this easy read form

Your name

Address

Phone

- your name
- your age
- what area you live in
- if you are a person with disability, a family member or carer, a service provider or someone else



Please fill in this easy read form

Your name

Address

Phone

You don't have to tell us these things if you don't want to.



We might put your answers on our website.

Please tell us if you don't want us to use your name or your story.



Please tell us what you think by **10 June 2023**.

Our questions



It is important for the new disability Act to be clear about who can get disability supports and services.



The DS Act says a disability is when you have one or more of these types of disability

- intellectual – how you think, learn, communicate, and solve problems



- psychiatric – how you feel, think and behave

- cognitive – how you think, learn, make decisions and pay attention



- neurological – when your brain affects how your body works



- sensory – how you see or hear



- physical – how you move and use parts of your body



The DS Act says disability is permanent or likely to be permanent

This means you will, or probably will, always have your disability

And your disability means you need a lot of support for things like



- communication (telling people what you want or need)

- social interaction (getting along and doing things with other people)

- learning things

- mobility (moving your body and getting around)



Do you think this explains all types of disability?



Yes



No

If No, what would you change?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a response to the question above.



The DS Act has a list of important rules and beliefs called **Principles**.



The Principles say people with disability should

- be respected
- not be discriminated against because of their disability
- access supports and services that suit them
- be part of the community
- make their own decisions and choices
- complain about supports and services
- not be hurt or treated badly



Do you think we need to change these Principles?

This could mean

- **adding new principles**
- **changing some of the principles**
- **removing some of the principles**

If Yes, what would you change?



There are also rules that protect people with disability from being hurt, treated badly or taken advantage of by provides of disability supports and services.

These rules are called **safeguards**.



Some of the safeguards are

- making sure disability service providers are **registered** and provide quality services

This means checking providers to make sure they are a business, provide good services, and follow the rules about keeping people safe



- doing **worker screening checks**

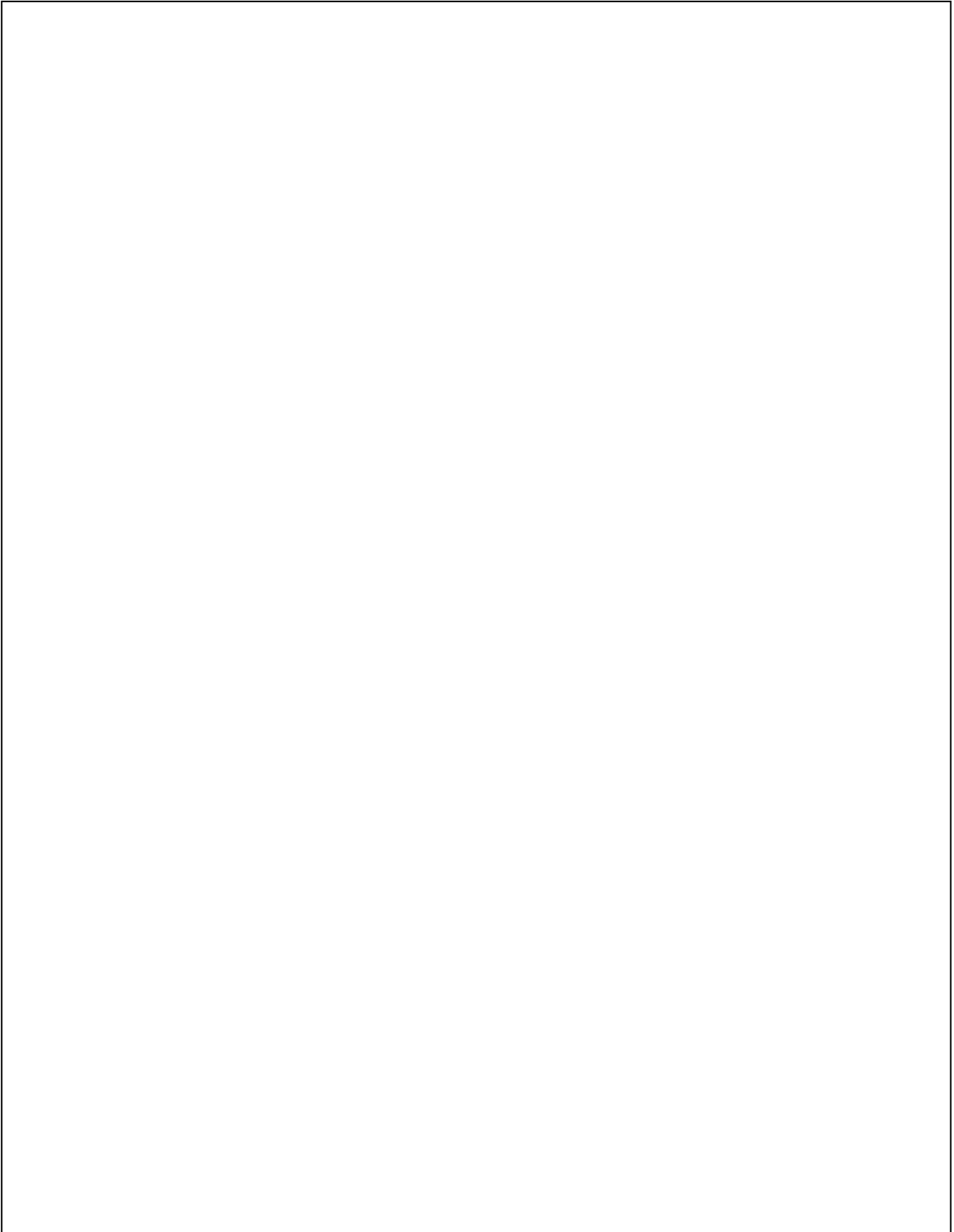
These are checks to make sure people working in disability services have never been in trouble for treating a person with disability badly



- running the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO)

This is so people can make complaints about their disability supports and services.

Can you think of any other ways we should protect people with disability when it comes to State disability supports and services?



Have you ever made a complaint to Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO)?



Yes



No

If Yes, do you think HaDSCO did a good job of dealing with your complaint?



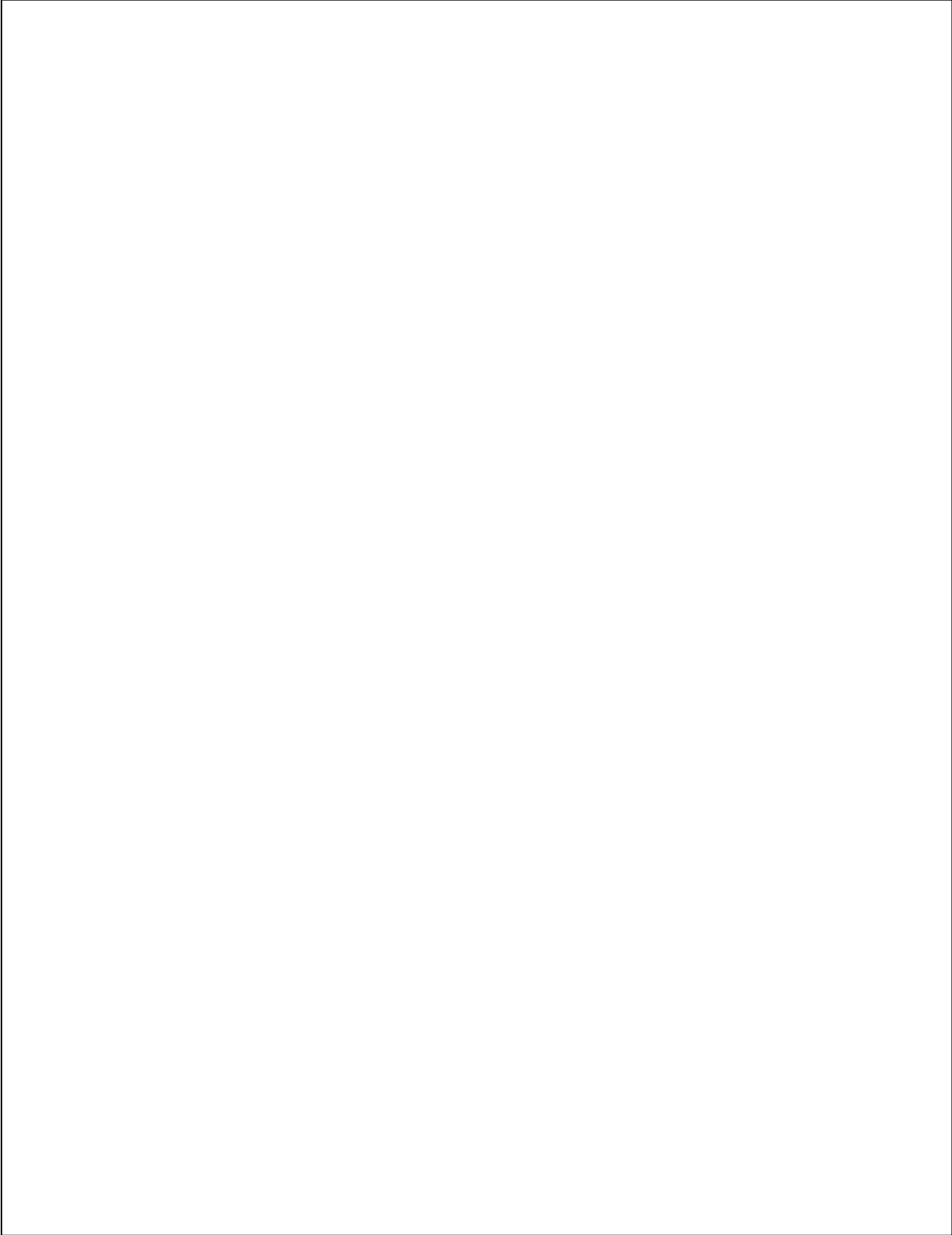
Yes



No

If No, why not?

How could we make it easier for people to make complaints about disability supports and services?





We want to make sure WA is **inclusive** and **accessible** for people with disability.



This means people with disability should be able to

- do the same things as everyone else, like going shopping or spending time with friends
- go to the same places as everyone else, like going to the movies or to the football
- get the same opportunities as everyone else, like getting a job
- get information they can read and understand





One way we help make WA more inclusive and accessible for people with disability is with **Disability Access and Inclusion Plans**.

We call these DAIPs for short.

DAIPs explain what organisations can do to be more inclusive and accessible for people with disability.



This includes things like

- making buildings more accessible with ramps or wider doorways
- giving information to customers in Easy Read
- giving support to staff with disability





The DS Act says all **public authorities** in WA must have a DAIP.

These are places like

- public hospitals
- local councils
- schools, TAFE's and universities



and services like



- Transperth

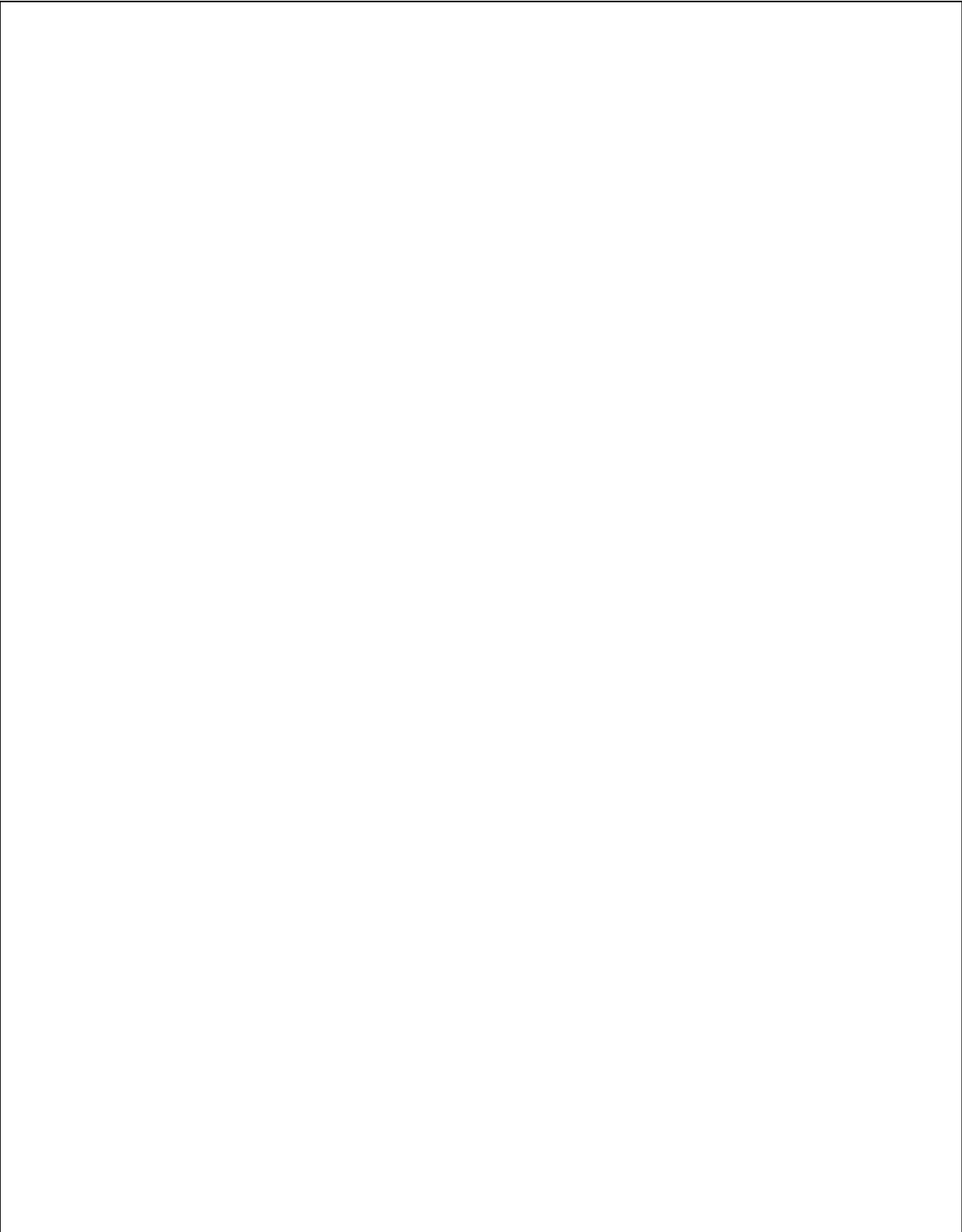


- the Police



The WA Government checks every year to make sure organisations are following their DAIP.

Can you think of any other ways to make WA more inclusive and accessible for people with disability?

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We want to make sure people with disability can have a say about things that affect them.



The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability is a group of people who tell the WA Disability Minister what they think about things that affect people with disability.

This helps the Government do what is best for people with disability in WA.



In the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability there are

- people with disability
- family and family carers of people with disability
- people who know a lot about disability

Do you think the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability is a good way for people with disability to have their say about things that affect them?



Yes



No

If No, why not?

Can you think of any other ways people with disability could tell the Government about things that affect them?

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Do you want to tell us anything else about the new disability Act?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for users to provide their feedback or comments regarding the new disability Act.

Your personal information will help us better understand people with disability in WA.

You do not have to give us your personal information if you don't want to.

My name

My age

My city or town

I am a

Person with disability

Family member or unpaid carer of a person with disability

Disability service provider

Disability advocacy organisation

Other (please explain)

Do you want your feedback to be anonymous?

This means if we make your answers public we won't use your name or other information that would tell people it is about you.



Yes



No

What happens next?

You tell us what you think about the new disability Act by **10 June 2023**.



We look at what everyone told us and then use it to help us write the new disability Act.

This is complicated, so it might take a little while to write it.



Then we will do more consultation to ask people what they think about the new disability Act before it becomes law.