**Request for Information - Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
Questionnaire on the provision of support to persons with disabilities**

The Australian Government is pleased to contribute to this request for information from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the provision of support to persons with disabilities.

1. **Please provide information on the following services that are available for persons with disabilities in your country, including data on their coverage, geographic distribution and delivery arrangements, funding and sustainability, challenges and shortcoming in their implementation:**
2. **Personal assistance;**
3. **In-home, residential and community support;**
4. **Support in decision-making, including peer support; and**
5. **Communication support including support for argumentative and alternative communication.**

The Australian Government is committed to creating a more inclusive Australian society, where people with disability have access to the same opportunities as other Australians. This includes a quality education, employment, housing, health care, as well as access to the full range of services and supports they may need to participate in community life. We aim to create and support enabling environments for people with disability, not only to help meet their aspirations, but to build an inclusive and productive society.

The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) helps to support people with disability through programs and services and benefits and payments, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). DSS also helps to support Australians' mental health. Further support is provided through grants and funding for organisations delivering services for people with disability and people with mental illness.

**The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

The Australian Government has introduced a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which, when fully rolled out by 2019-20, will provide support to approximately 460,000 people with significant and permanent disability. The transition to full scheme is an extremely complex venture and represents a very significant change to the way people with disability are supported. The scheme aims to ensure that participants will receive reasonable and necessary funded supports based on their needs and to remove barriers to enable them to achieve their goals and aspirations. They will have choice and control over that support and the costs are controlled through an insurance based approach. These arrangements provide certainty for around 90 per cent of the 460,000 Australians expected to be eligible for the NDIS.

The Commonwealth has now signed bilateral agreements for the transition to full scheme with New South Wales (NSW), Victoria, Queensland, South Australia (SA), Tasmania and Northern Territory. Transition in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) from July 2014, with the agreed eligible population having entered the scheme by the end of September 2016.

The Commonwealth is committed to finalising arrangements for the state-wide roll-out of the NDIS in Western Australia. Currently there are two comparative trials – the NDIS and the WA Government’s ‘My Way’. Information on this can be found on the WA Government website - [www.disability.wa.gov.au/wa-ndis-my-way/wa-ndis-my-way/](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/wa-ndis-my-way/wa-ndis-my-way/)

These two comparative trials will be extended for 12 months and expanded to cover new geographical areas in order to continue to move towards full state-wide roll-out.

The NDIS provides reasonable and necessary funding that participants use to obtain supports such as, but not limited to, activities of daily living (personal assistance, independent living assistance), community participation, therapeutic supports, skill development, assistive technology, equipment, and home modifications. Participants are able to access support to build capacity in all areas of life including decision making,
self-directing supports and self-managing their funding.

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) is the component of the NDIS that seeks to ensure people with disability are included in all aspects of community life. ILC will target all people with disability, including those who receive an NDIS plan. The activities that ILC will fund include individual capacity building models such as peer support, and community capacity building models such as disability confidence training for mainstream services. The aim of ILC is to facilitate and support the connection of people to their communities, so that the goal of community inclusion for people with disability can be realised. Like the broader NDIS, ILC is being rolled out gradually across Australia, with national implementation to be in place by 2019-20.

**Disability Employment Services (DES)**

The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) contracts DES providers to deliver uncapped, open employment services for job seekers with disability. This includes individualised, tailored assistance and supports with an emphasis on employment, skills development, education and training, and informed choice.

Eligibility for DES is determined by an independent assessment of a jobseeker’s barriers to employment. Jobseekers with disability, injury or health condition who are assessed as being able to work at least eight hours per week in open employment may be referred to DES. DES includes:

* Disability Management Service (DMS) – providing services to eligible jobseekers who require the assistance of a disability employment service but who are not expected to need regular, long-term support in the workplace, and
* Employment Support Service (ESS) – available to eligible jobseekers with permanent disability who are assessed as needing regular long-term ongoing support in the workplace.

Alternatively, jobseekers with disability can receive open employment assistance through the Department of Employment jobactive program, which is available to all Australian jobseekers.

Over four years from 2015-16, the Australian Government will invest approximately
$3.8 billion in DES and associated services to provide open employment opportunities for people with disability.

As at 31 August 2016, there were over 184,000 participants in the DES program. Since the introduction of the program in March 2010, Australians with disability have been assisted into over 322,000 paid job placements.

The Government also funds a range of services targeted to support employers to employ people with disability, referred to as Employment Assistance and Other Services, which includes the Employment Assistance Fund, the Supported Wage System, the Wage Subsidy Scheme and the National Disability Recruitment Coordinator.

The Government provides information to help jobseekers choose from local DES providers. The Star Ratings performance of each site, based on a range of outcomes, is made available and jobseekers are able to add public comments about their own experiences.

The Government engaged a Disability Employment Taskforce to conduct community discussions with a range of stakeholders about possible improvements to DES services. Feedback from consultations include: giving participants more information choice and control; enabling service providers to deliver high quality services; and the need to better engage with and support employers. These findings will help to shape the reformed DES to be implemented in 2018.

**Supported Employment via Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs)**

ADEs are commercial businesses that receive funding from the Australian Government to provide supported employment assistance to people with moderate to severe disability who face barriers to working in the open labour market but who are able to work for at least eight hours per week in a supported environment.

Over $650 million is being invested in ADEs over the next three years. In 2015–16,
184 ADEs received funding of $221.2 million to provide supported employment to nearly 19,900 people with disability in 284 outlets across Australia Australian Government funding is provided to fund the types of support that individuals may require in the workplace including frequent prompting, occupational health and safety assistance, and ongoing close supervision to undertake their work tasks.

People with disability working in ADEs receive employment support based on their individual assessed need. ADEs enable people with disability to engage in a wide variety of work tasks, for example, garden maintenance, cleaning services, and food services. ADEs sell their products and services to a wide customer base, including business and government.

**Supported Employment in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

The introduction of the NDIS will foster increased economic participation of people with disability, who have the capacity to work, and their carers by providing reasonable and necessary supports to help them achieve their goals.

More than 1,000 people with disability are already being supported in employment in ADEs under the NDIS.

Funding for supported employment will gradually transition to the NDIS over time, and the priority is to ensure continuity of employment support for people with disability working in ADEs. DES and Jobactive will continue to be the providers of mainstream employment services for people with disability who are seeking work in open employment. However, one element of DES, Work Based Personal Assistance (WBPA) is being delivered via the NDIS.

The NDIS also covers pre-employment supports that enable younger participants to achieve their goals of economic participation. Examples of Pre-employment supports transitioning to the NDIS are ‘Transition to work programs’ and ‘School Leaver Employment Supports’.

**The financial mechanisms to ensure affordability of support services for all, persons with disabilities**

The Australian Government provides financial support to people with disability who are unable to support themselves due to their level of impairment. The Disability Support Pension (DSP) is designed to give people an adequate means of support if they have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment which attracts at least 20 points under the Impairment Tables. The person must also be assessed as being unable to work for 15 or more hours per week, for at least the next two years, because of their impairment.

**National Disability Advocacy Program**

The Australian Government funds disability advocacy agencies under the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP). Disability advocacy can be delivered on a one-on-one (individual) basis, or can seek to influence or secure positive long-term changes that remove barriers, and address discriminatory practices, to ensure the collective rights and interests of a broader group of people with disability are upheld. There are 58 disability advocacy agencies funded under the NDAP across Australia.

**Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) - Australian Bureau of Statistics**

Australia’s primary source of information about people with a disability is the SDAC conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The SDAC has been conducted at regular intervals since 1981. It is the most detailed and comprehensive source of disability data in the ABS and considered the ‘gold-standard’ for population based disability information in Australia. Based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), collecting disability data based on functioning, rather than conditions. Using a detailed series of questions to measure functioning within the context of everyday life is much more reliable than self-identification of disability.

The SDAC gives the most accurate measure of disability prevalence in Australia, and plays an important role in informing policy and measuring our progress towards meeting the goals of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, meaning equal access to education, employment, health care, information, justice, public transport, and the built environment. Australia ratified the Convention in 2008.

The data collected from SDAC is used to assist in developing the evidence base for policy development, service delivery and program administration activities regarding disability and carers issues. The Australian Government makes disaggregated information available to policy makers and researchers as well as the general public.

The survey from 2015 measures (i) the prevalence of disability, and priorities for carer support; (ii) a demographic and socio-economic profile of people with disability, older people and carers compared with the general population; and (iii) people who provide care to older people and people with a disability.

The 2015 collection identified that the prevalence of disability in Australia was 18.3 per cent in 2015, a figure that has been fairly consistent over the 30 years that ABS has been conducting the survey. This figure is the proportion of people across all age brackets, including the NDIS population (0-64 years) and the aged care population (65 years and over). The proportion of people aged 65 years and over with a disability is significantly higher than the levels associated with the NDIS due to the high prevalence of age related disability.

For further information on SDAC see [**Attachment A**](#AttachmentA).

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) collects and reports on NDIS participants and expenditure to the Coalition of Australian Government’s (COAG) Disability Reform Council. However, the NDIS trials currently only provide services to a small proportion of people receiving government funded disability services. Over time as the NDIS rolls out across the country, data from the NDIA will become the primary source of information about services provided to people with disability.

1. **Please explain how persons with disabilities can access information about the existing services referred to in question one, including referral procedures, eligibility criteria and application requirements.**

People with disability can access information about existing services via a number of Australian Government websites including Department of Social Services ([www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)) and the National Disability Insurance Scheme ([www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)).

**National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

Accessing NDIS information:

The NDIS website includes information for people with disability, families and carers, participants, providers, the community, and news.

NDIS Local Area Coordination (LAC) will be delivered by the NDIA Partners in the Community. Partners and the NDIA will work closely to build and improve the way the NDIS is delivered to make sure it works for people with disability in the best possible way.

The Partners in the Community Program enables the NDIS to be implemented at a local community level. The NDIA currently partners and continues to look to partner with suitably experienced and qualified organisations, with strong local knowledge and understanding of the needs of people with disability or developmental delay, to deliver Local Area Coordination services and/or Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) services.

The NDIA will establish these partnerships to build on existing relationships, voluntary and community action enabling people with disability to gain the benefits of community membership. These benefits include maintaining or gaining employment and participating in everyday activities and community life in natural settings.

Local Area Coordination (ages 7 and above) services and ECEI (ages 0 – 6) services will work with both individuals and the community in the local community to:

* assist people with disability (and/or children with developmental delay in the case of ECEI Services), their families and carers to build and pursue their goals for life, exercise choice and control in their lives and engage with the NDIS as appropriate, and
* ensure that people with disability (and/or children with developmental delay in the case of ECEI Services) can be offered a wide range of alternative supports as part of the Scheme by working with communities and mainstream services to build awareness and commitment to become more inclusive of the range of needs and aspiration of people with disability. Including capacity building support to choose and make decisions including the purchasing of funded supports using their NDIS Plan funding or linking to mainstream and community supports and capacity building services such as Personal assistance, In-home, residential and community support; Support in decision-making, including peer support; and communication support including support for argumentative and alternative communication.

Information regarding further supports available for purchase with NDIS Plan funding can be found in Price Guide on the NDIS website at: [www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-and-payment.html](https://ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-and-payment.html) .

Through ILC, the NDIS will fund a range of organisations to provide information and referral services to people with disability across the country. The information and referral services will provide people with disability with access to high quality, and relevant information about disability and effective referrals to where to get support from mainstream and community services. Through the referral and information services, ILC is seeking to ensure that people with disability:

* are connected to and benefit from the same community and mainstream services as everyone else, and
* have the information they need to make decisions and choices.

**Disability Employment Services (DES)**

Accessing DES information:

* The Department of Social Services website - [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) (provides information regarding Programs and Services to people with disability, including DES)
* The Department of Human Services Website – [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) (provides high level information on DES services, provider information, how to register and related services), and
* JobAccess - [www.jobaccess.gov.au](http://www.jobaccess.gov.au) (the JobAccess service provides an information and advice service that offers practical workplace solutions for people with disability and their employers. It includes a free telephone information and advice service).

Referrals

Participants are predominately referred to DES by Centrelink (the client-facing services of the Department of Human Services) after undertaking an Employment Services Assessment (ESAt) or Job Capacity Assessment (JCA) to determine the most appropriate service for a jobseeker. An ESAt provides a comprehensive work capacity assessment for people with disability and/or other potentially serious barriers to work. ESAts recommend the most appropriate employment service assistance and support interventions based on an assessment of the job seeker’s barriers to finding and maintaining employment; and work capacity in hour bandwidths.

Broadly, jobseekers are referred to DES where their primary impediment to gaining employment is their disability and they have a work capacity of eight hours per week or above, within two years with intervention.

Direct registration processes are also available to provide the opportunity for maximising access to DES. Direct registration enables DES providers to commit to early intervention partnerships with services such as health facilities, training providers and schools and allows people with disability who choose to volunteer to participate in DES to access specialised employment services.

1. **Please elaborate on how these services respond to the specific needs of persons with disabilities throughout their life cycle (infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and older age) and how is service delivery ensured in the transition periods between life cycle states.**

Early intervention support is available to both children and adults who meet the early intervention requirements. The intention of early intervention is to alleviate the impact of a person's impairment upon their functional capacity by providing support at the earliest possible stage. Early intervention support is also intended to benefit a person by reducing their future needs for supports.

The NDIS delivers an ECEI approach, an evidenced based approach specifically for children aged 0-6 who have a developmental delay or disability. The approach allows the NDIS to work in collaboration with designated sector experts, Early Childhood Partners. It provides a soft entry into support which focuses on family centred practices delivered in a child’s natural settings, such as in the family context, preschools and playgroups. ECEI builds on family strengths and growing the capacity of mainstream and community services to support children with developmental delay or disability, leading to greater inclusion for children. Early Childhood Partners can be accessed regardless of diagnosis which allows families to receive support in a timely manner.

The requirement to be under 65 years of age to become a NDIS participant recognises that the NDIS is part of a broader system of support in Australia, with the intention that people over 65 should access the aged care system.

The NDIS can also provide funded supports for ‘Life Transition Planning’. This specific funding can be implemented at life stages that require additional goals and strategies for example – leaving school, moving out of the family home, retirement.

**Disability Employment Services (DES)**

DES responds to the specific needs of a person with disability through individualised services provided through one of the two DES services:

* **Disability Management Service** is for job seekers with disability, injury or health condition who need assistance to find a job and occasional support to keep a job, and
* **Employment Support Service** provides assistance to people with permanent disability and who need regular, ongoing support to keep a job.

Within these services, DES provides specialist employment assistance to help people whose primary impediment to gaining employment is a disability, injury or health condition, to find and retain sustainable employment in the open labour market. DES providers do this by matching people with vacant jobs, negotiating with employers, preparing both the workplace and jobseeker for employment, including through education and skills development, and offering ongoing support in the workplace to ensure success in the long term.

1. **Please provide information on the number of certified sign language interpreters and deafblind interpreters available in your country.**

The [National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service (NABS)](http://www.nabs.org.au/) provides accredited Auslan (Australian Sign Language) interpreters to deaf Auslan users when they attend private medical consultations, including medical practitioners, specialists and other private health care providers that attract a Medicare rebate. Consultations that occur in private or public hospitals are not covered by the NABS service. There is only one national service provider, [Wesley Mission Brisbane](http://www.wmb.org.au/), which administers the [NABS](http://www.nabs.org.au/).

As part of the NABS funding agreement, Wesley Mission must ensure that all NABS Auslan interpreters:

* are National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) accredited at Para-professional level or Professional level;
* abide by the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Incorporated (AUSIT) Code of Ethics for Interpreters and Translators;
* be covered by professional indemnity insurance; and
* adhere to appropriate Occupational Health and Safety regulations.

The National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) is a company jointly owned by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments. NAATI provides accreditation for translators and interpreters in over 60 languages, including Auslan.

NDIS participants will be able to utilise their funding to purchase Auslan interpreting via NABS. NDIS funding and use of Auslan interpreting can be applied in a broader range of settings than currently available under NABS.

1. **Please provide information on the existence of any partnership between State institutions and private service providers (eg, non-governmental organisations, for profit service providers) for the provision of support to persons with disabilities.**

The National Disability Agreement (NDA) is a high level agreement between the Commonwealth, States and Territories that sets out the objectives, responsibilities and joint areas of reform in relation to disability services. Under the NDA, the role of the states and territories to deliver specialist disability services such as disability supported accommodation, respite, community access and community support, will continue until full roll-out of the NDIS.

1. **Please describe to what extent and how are persons with disabilities and their representative organisations involved in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of support services.**

In 2015, the Australian Government established a new ‘disability peaks funding model’ comprising five national disability organisations representing cross-disability, women with disability, children and young people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability, and people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The new ‘disability peaks funding model’ represents the interests and views of all people with disability within the one framework that recognises that disability is more a reflection of social barriers and discrimination, rather than a person’s medical condition or impairment.

The model includes four disabled people’s organisations (organisations that are made up of and led by people with disability) forming Disabled People’s Organisations Australia
(DPO Australia):

* People with Disability Australia
* First Peoples Disability Network
* National Ethnic Disability Alliance, and
* Women with Disability Australia.

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) is funded as a national cross-disability peak and advocacy organisation representing the interests of people with all kinds of disability. Founded in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, PWDA seeks to provide people with disability with a voice of their own.

First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN) is funded to represent and provide a voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their families, through providing advice to the government and non-government sectors about the unmet needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability can be best met, and advice on breaking down barriers and improving social and economic participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) is funded as the national voice advocating for the rights and interests of people from non-English speaking background with disability, their families and carers throughout Australia. It works towards an inclusive Australia where cultural diversity and disability rights are valued as essential aspects of an equitable society.

Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) is funded as the peak organisation for women with all types of disabilities in Australia. WWDA’s work is grounded in a human rights based framework which links gender and disability issues to a full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. This rights based approach recognises that equal treatment, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination provide for inclusive opportunities for women and girls with disabilities in society. It also seeks to create greater awareness among governments and other relevant institutions of their obligations to fulfil, respect, protect and promote human rights and to support and empower women with disabilities, both individually and collectively, to claim their rights.

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) is funded separately to represent, and provide a link between the direct experiences of, children and young people with disability and their families to Government and other key stakeholders. CYDA will work collaboratively with DPO Australia on areas of shared interest and opportunities to advance the rights of people with disability. Through systemic advocacy CYDA aims to create change and engender a true appreciation of the experiences and challenges that make up the lives of children with a disability and their families; provide children with a disability with the opportunity to live meaningful and fulfilling lives within safe, supportive and appropriate environments; and support families to provide the necessary care and support to children with a disability.

1. **Please provide any other relevant information and statistics (including survey’s censuses, administrative data, reports, and studies) related to the provision of support to persons with disabilities in your country.**

In Australia, the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (the strategy) is the framework for driving disability reform and improving the life outcomes of people with disability. It is an important mechanism to ensure that the principles underpinning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are incorporated into policies and programmes affecting people with disability, their families and carers.

At the heart of the strategy is the creation of a more inclusive approach to the design of policies, programmes and infrastructure so that people with disability can actively participate in community life. This means improving access to key mainstream services and supports from education, employment and health care, to housing, transport, public buildings, as well as social and cultural events.

The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments 2014 was released in December 2015. The progress report highlights outcomes and achievements under the strategy’s first implementation plan, and is the first of four two-yearly progress reports to COAG (next due in 2016, 2018 and 2020).

The strategy’s progress reports use baseline population trend data to monitor and track national progress against the strategy’s six policy outcome areas. They also include:

* feedback from people with disability, their families and carers and their representative organisations on the implementation of the strategy
* feedback from Commonwealth, state and territory Disability Services Ministers on achievements under the strategy, and
* a review of progress of current actions.

**Report on Government Services (ROGS)**

The annual Report on Government Services (RoGS) provides information on the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of government services in Australia ([www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services](http://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services)).

Services for people with disability

The Services for people with disability chapter (chapter 14) of ROGS on the assistance funded by governments to people with disability and their carers, focuses on specialist disability services.

The National Disability Agreement (NDA), effective from 1 January 2009, provides the national framework and key areas of reform for the provision of government support and services for people with disability and their carers. The focus of this chapter is on the services and supports provided under this agreement.

According to RoGS 2016 – Volume F Community Services, Chapter 14 Services for people with disability (Latest report covers 2013-14 and 2014-15, released 27 January 2016), in 2013-14, 308,120 people aged under 65 years were reported as using NDA specialist disability services. This includes state or territory delivered disability services and Australian Government-delivered employment services, but excludes those who received specialist psychiatric disability services only.

**Attachment A:**

**Further Information on the Australia is the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)**

*Key sources of Australian disability data*

The primary source of disability-related data in Australia is the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), which is currently collected every three years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The SDAC has been collected since 1981 and provides highly accurate and reliable data that allows for both high quality national estimates, as well as very fine level geographic disaggregation. The SDAC uses the WHO’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as the conceptual framework for the survey, meaning that Australia is able to measure and understand its performance against a comprehensive range of topics, including those specifically mentioned in Resolution 69/142 (such as the equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities). For further information regarding the quality of the SDAC and detailed information on the topics collected, please see the [SDAC Data Quality Declaration.](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Latestproducts/4430.0Quality%20Declaration12015?opendocument&tabname=Notes&prodno=4430.0&issue=2015&num=&view=)

The [2015 SDAC: Summary of Findings](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/0/C258C88A7AA5A87ECA2568A9001393E8?Opendocument) was released on 18 October 2016 and included information about disability prevalence in Australia (4.3 million people or 18.3% of the total population) and a number of key findings on assistance needed and received, and satisfaction with the quality and range of services for people with disability who needed assistance. Key results included:

* Assistance was most commonly needed with health care (29.3%), property maintenance (26.9%) and household chores (23.5%).
* People with profound limitation, that is, the most severe level of disability, reported the greatest need for assistance with mobility (88.3%) and health care (77.3%).
* Most people needing assistance because of disability received some help (97.4%).
* Of all Australians with disability (living in households) who needed assistance, 62.1% reported their needs were fully met.
* The most commonly reported activities for which needs for assistance were not fully met included property maintenance (7.7% of all people with disability), cognitive or emotional tasks (7.5% of all people with disability) and household chores (5.6% of all people with disability).

For further information, please see the [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Latestproducts/4430.0Main%20Features12015?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4430.0&issue=2015&num=&view=).

In addition to the SDAC, the ABS collects information in relation to persons with disability for a range of broader topics, which allows for comparison of data with persons without disability. Recently, this has included information collected in:

* the 2014-15 [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/National%2BAboriginal%2Band%2BTorres%2BStrait%2BIslander%2BSocial%2BSurvey);
* the 2014 [General Social Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4159.0Main%2BFeatures12014?OpenDocument);
* the 2014-15 [National Health Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4364.0.55.001~2014-15~Main%20Features~About%20the%20National%20Health%20Survey~3); and
* the 2011 and upcoming 2016 [Australian Population Census](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/about?opendocument&navpos=100).

For further information, see the [ABS Sources of Disability Information paper](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4431.0.55.002).

In 2016, the [Supplementary Disability Survey](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/0/2403CDF924A0CD71CA257FE100139B23?Opendocument) (SDS) was conducted by the ABS for the first time using a sub-sample of respondents from the 2015 SDAC. The SDS used a set of six question developed by the [Washington Group on (WG) Disability Statistics](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group/index.htm) and provides information about different levels of difficulty with basic activity functioning.

Results from the SDS are different from other ABS disability measures and should not be compared; the results are intended for international comparison with countries applying similar measures.

Further investigations are taking place to identify the similarities and difference in the people identified with disability in the 2016 SDS and 2015 SDAC collections. This analytical work will be released by the ABS in early 2017.