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**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

PURSUANT TO THE DISABILITY INCLUSION ACT 2024, SECTION 13

DISABILITY JUSTICE STRATEGY: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2025

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DISABILITY JUSTICE STRATEGY

2025 Annual Progress Report

Justice and Community Safety Directorate
and Health and Community Services
Directorate

September 2025

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
REPORTING SUMMARY	6
Focus Area 1 – Information and Communication	6
Focus Area 2 – Education and Guidance.....	11
Focus Area 3 – Identification, Screening and Assessment	14
Focus Area 4 – Better Service Delivery	17
Focus Area 5 – Data, Research and Review	22
CONCLUSION.....	25

DISABILITY JUSTICE STRATEGY

2025 Annual Progress Report

INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Annual Progress Report (the Report) for the ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029¹ (the Strategy) provides a comprehensive overview of the Territory's ongoing commitment to ensuring equitable access to justice for people with disability. Building on the foundations laid in previous years, this report highlights key achievements, identifies areas for continued improvement and reflects the voices of agencies and people with lived experience. It underscores the ACT Government's dedication to creating a justice system that is inclusive, responsive, and respectful of the rights and dignity of all individuals, in alignment with the broader goals of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031.²

The ACT Disability Justice Strategy: Second Action Plan (2024-2028)³ (the Plan) outlines a range of actions from the Disability Justice Strategy that will be implemented over four years to support the experiences of people with disability within the justice system and influence organisation and system change. People with Disability, community members and key government and non-government stakeholders provided invaluable input which informed the actions and initiatives in the Plan.

The Plan captures a broad range of activities across five focus areas – Information and Communication, Education and Guidance, Identification, Screening and Assessment, Better Service Delivery, and Data, Research and Review – highlighting the collaborative efforts of government agencies, advocacy organisations, and community partners.

This Report is the first progress report against the Plan and provides a status and summary update against each action in the Plan for the period between its launch, on 28 August 2024 to 30 June 2025.

This Report serves as a transparent reporting tool, showcasing achievements to date, identifying areas requiring further attention, and reinforcing the ACT Government's commitment to a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable justice system for people with disability.

¹ The ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029 provides the Territory's framework to achieve equity and inclusion for people with disability in the ACT justice system. More information is available here: [Towards Disability Justice for the ACT—Summary of research and consultations 2019](#)

² Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 (ADS) is a national framework that all Australian governments have signed up to. Further information available via [Australia's Disability Strategy | Department of Social Services](#)

³ Further information is available via the [Disability Justice Strategy: Second Action Plan \(2024–2028\)](#)

Goals of the Disability Justice Strategy

GOAL 1

People with disability are safe and their rights are respected.



People with disability:

- understand their rights
- participate in decision making and have their wishes and preferences respected
- are protected from violence and neglect
- access justice and navigate the justice system with appropriate supports and adjustments.

GOAL 2

The ACT has a disability responsive justice system.



- **The civil and criminal justice system** has enhanced awareness of and responds appropriately to people with disability
- **People with disability** have access to legal services and supports
- **The support needs of people with disability** are recognised and reasonable adjustments are made
- **People with disability** have supports that decrease the likelihood of contact with the criminal justice system

GOAL 3

Change is measured and achieved.



- **Systems and services** recognise the need for consistent data collection
- **Data is collected and used** to monitor improvements
- **Goals, priorities and activities** of the Strategy are evaluated, tracked and measured for outcomes
- **Data and evaluation** are used to measure cultural change.

The five focus areas identified as critical to achieve these goals are:

FOCUS AREA 1

Information and communication

FOCUS AREA 2

Education and guidance

FOCUS AREA 3

Identification, screening and assessment

FOCUS AREA 4

Better service delivery

FOCUS AREA 5

Data, research and review

REPORTING SUMMARY

Focus Area 1 – Information and Communication

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
1.1 Development of accessible documents and resources	Work alongside people with disability to map pathways through the justice system. Identify key points where information and communication would benefit from increased accessibility. Prioritise and ensure systematic translation of existing documents into plain and Easy English. Creation of accessible information – e.g. videos, wallet card, social scripts. Development of culturally appropriate accessible resources to support First Nations people with disability or additional needs.	In Progress – Ongoing	Multiple agencies and Disability Liaison Officers have made progress in creating accessible materials, including Easy English documents, plain English documents and Social Scripts. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate and the Community Services Directorate have continued to provide funding and resources for agencies to create accessible materials. Legal Aid and the Restorative Justice Unit have completed Easy English resources and culturally appropriate materials. The Human Rights Commission and ACT Courts and Tribunal have developed guides, videos, and pamphlets to support people with disabilities. Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Children Youth and Families, Canberra Community Law, ACT Policing, Victims Support ACT, and ACT Corrective Services are actively working on translating documents, updating websites, and producing accessible formats. Some agencies, like ACT Policing and ACT Corrective Services, are also exploring communication tools and

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
			visual aids.
1.2 Accessible bail conditions	Scope accessibility of bail conditions with the aim to improve understanding and compliance.	In Progress	In May 2025, the ACT Government released a YourSay discussion paper seeking community views on potential reforms to the Act, including whether an accused person's disability needs, health needs (including mental health) and other relevant circumstances should be required to be considered by a decision-maker when deciding whether to grant bail. Thirty-nine submissions were received and JACS is currently preparing a listening report, summarising what was heard during the 6-week consultation period. Following completion of the listening report, JACS will develop options for amendment to the Bail Act. Legal Aid has completed the development of an Easy English bail wallet card to support understanding and compliance, especially for people with cognitive or communication disabilities. The ACT Government is in the early stages of developing a "Bail App," initially as a pilot project for concept testing, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on bail. The app is designed to support users in understanding and meeting their bail conditions. By making bail conditions more accessible, easier to understand, and clearer to follow, the app helps set people up to successfully complete their bail requirements. It will offer practical tools, timely reminders, and culturally appropriate resources that are plainly written and easy to navigate. The app also

Action Details		Action Status	
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			prioritises user privacy and trust, aiming to build legitimacy in the bail process while ensuring the service is secure and respectful of users' needs. Subject to future decisions of Government, the long-term goal is for the Bail App to ultimately reduce the over-representation and recidivism of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system by minimising administrative and technical breaches of bail conditions, promoting successful completion of bail orders, supporting transition back into community, and diverting individuals away from the justice system.
1.3 Supported Decision Making and Guardianship reform	Following amendments to the <i>Guardianship and Management of Property Act</i> in 2023, a second stage of reforms will seek to address systemic issues and structural barriers and reduce reliance on substitute decision-making.	In Progress	The Government is considering options for a second stage of reforms, which will seek to address systemic issues and structural barriers and reduce reliance on substituted decision-making.
1.4 Supported Decision-Making Activities	Undertake work to progress a cultural shift towards understanding and engagement with supported decision making by people with disability.	In Progress	ACT Down Syndrome and Intellectual Disability (ACT DSID) established an Advocacy Reference Group of people with intellectual disability. The group met regularly, received training, and engaged with government bodies to promote supported decision-making. Members were also employed and contributed to public speaking and policy discussions. ACT Disability Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS) has delivered supported decision-making workshops tailored for young people in the juvenile

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
			justice system. These sessions, co-designed with staff and participants, aim to empower youth to make intentional, values-aligned decisions. Early feedback shows increased hope and self-determination among participants.
1.5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Reasonable Adjustment Rights project	Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to develop culturally safe and appropriate information about reasonable adjustments. Work with community and justice agencies to raise awareness about adjustment rights.	Not yet commenced	The Office for Disability within the Health and Community Services Directorate will undertake planning and consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and groups to take place in 2025-26.
1.6 ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy	The forthcoming ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy and ongoing implementation will be accessible for and responsive to the needs of people with disability, as part of our commitment to a Domestic Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) prevention and response system that is inclusive of people with intersecting needs and experiences.	In Progress	The ACT Government is progressing the development of a comprehensive and evidence-based <i>ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy</i> aimed at driving ambitious reform and ensuring all Canberrans are safe from gendered violence—whether at home, in relationships, or within the broader community. Following initial public consultation through the <i>Your Say</i> platform in April 2024, stakeholders strongly advocated for deeper engagement with victim-survivors and the specialist domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) sector. In response to this feedback, formal consultation recommenced in June 2025, with a renewed focus on centring the voices of victim-survivors, frontline organisations with specialist expertise, and both government and non-government

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
			entities working to reduce the impacts of gender-based violence. This targeted consultation will continue throughout 2025, culminating in the anticipated mid-2026 launch of the Strategy, accompanied by a First Action Plan and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to guide implementation and measure progress.
1.7 Self-Advocacy	A 12-month pilot to support people with intellectual disability to gain increased knowledge about their rights, experience strengthened supported decision-making networks and have improved skills in self-advocacy.	Complete	ACT Down Syndrome and Intellectual Disability (ACT DSID) Association's Advocacy Reference Group co-designed and delivered workshops on supported decision-making and self-advocacy. These sessions included accessible materials and reached over 100 participants, including people with intellectual disability, families, and professionals. These workshops were supported with funding from the Health and Community Services Directorate. The program has been successful and extended into the 2025-26 financial year.

Focus Area 2 – Education and Guidance

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
2.1 Tailored Disability Education and Guidance for the Justice Sector	Partnership with disability training subject matter experts to identify, develop and facilitate tailored disability awareness training. Internal education and guidance provided by DLOs to justice agency staff.	In Progress – Ongoing	Legal Aid ACT is actively delivering internal training on disability awareness, trauma-informed practice, and communication strategies for clients with Autism, ADHD, and mental health conditions. Tailored support is provided through guided tours, simplified legal documents, and accessible communication. Domestic Violence Crisis Service runs monthly “Let’s Talk Disability” sessions and has embedded disability-informed practices across its crisis intervention teams, including safety planning and advocacy. Youth Justice (Children Youth and Family) has completed training focused on neurodiversity and reasonable adjustments for young people in custody. Canberra Community Law has implemented an Access and Inclusion policy and delivered training on Autism and sensory needs, including a Plain English workshop. ACT Policing is developing targeted disability training for officers, with plans for a train-the-trainer model and bespoke resources. ACT Courts and Tribunal mandates disability awareness training for staff and provides resources for accessing support via the Disability Liaison Officer. Victim Support ACT has delivered internal and external training on disability rights and communication

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
			strategies, with a focus on intellectual disability. ACT Corrective Services is finalising a Practice Guide to help staff support clients with disability through culturally and individually responsive practices. The Health and Community Services Directorate and Justice and Community Safety Directorate engaged Advocacy for Inclusion to undertake a research project to scope, identify cost and provide advice on tailored disability awareness training options. Advocacy for Inclusion developed a library of training options available across Australia detailing the availability, cost, audience and format including evaluation information for agencies in the ACT. This research has been disseminated for use across justice agencies and community organisations, through the Disability Justice Reference Group.
2.2 Education outreach on rights of people with disability	Increase provision of education to community, disability service providers, and justice sector staff on the rights of people with disability.	In Progress	The ACT Human Rights Commission has increased outreach on complaint mechanisms for people with disability and promoted new positive duties under the <i>Discrimination Act 1991</i>. Victim Support ACT participated in community expos and interagency events to raise awareness of disability rights and supports under the Victims Charter.
2.3 Introduction of Positive Duties	Support implementation of positive duties to eliminate discrimination and make reasonable adjustments, including for people with disability, brought about	Complete	Positive duties to eliminate discrimination and make reasonable adjustments, including for people with disability have now been implemented with the support of the agencies and Directorates across the ACT

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
	by the <i>Discrimination Amendment Act (2023)</i> .		Government.
2.4 Workforce Capability Development Project	Design and deliver a Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) training package tailored to staff within disability services and a disability awareness training program for use in specialist DFV services.	In Progress	The ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Service embedded disability and trauma-informed training in staff induction and supervision. Staff also received Easy English and WWILD training to better support clients with intellectual disability and experiences of sexual violence.
2.5 Legal capacity guidance for legal profession	Develop and circulate resources that assist private lawyers to improve the inclusion and accessibility of their services for people with disability.	In Progress	Legal Aid ACT has begun revising its information sheet for external lawyers to improve guidance on legal capacity.

Focus Area 3 – Identification, Screening and Assessment

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
3.1 Identification of disability for reasonable adjustment needs	Continued use of needs identification tool during intake or induction processes to identify reasonable adjustment needs.	In Progress – Ongoing	Justice agencies across ACT Government have been actively working to improve how disability is identified and how reasonable adjustments are provided. Many justice agencies have developed or are in the process of developing identification tools to assist in the implementation of reasonable adjustments. Legal Aid has completed infrastructure upgrades and improved internal coordination to better support clients with disability. The ACT Human Rights Commission ensures adjustments are available for people lodging complaints across various service areas. The ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Service is undertaking a comprehensive review of its services and data systems, developing standardised screening tools and policies to better meet accessibility needs. Children, Youth and Families has embedded a screening tool (TIRA) into their induction process, enabling cross-agency sharing of disability-related information. Canberra Community Law is updating its data systems and conducting a mapping project to understand how people with disability navigate the civil justice system. Advocacy for Inclusion continues to raise concerns

Action Details		Action Status	
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			about restrictive practices in closed settings. ACT Policing has implemented a disability screening tool at the Watch House and is developing a broader tool for general duties officers. The ACT Courts and Tribunal has updated forms and tools to support disability disclosure and adjustment requests. Victim Support ACT is shifting toward a more relational and trauma-informed approach to discussing adjustments, making these conversations more accessible and supportive. ACT Corrective Services is enhancing its capacity to assess and support detainees with disability, including through new staffing and targeted occupational therapy assessments.
3.2 Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) assessment and screening	Assessment and screening for cognitive impairment and disability to occur as part of AMC induction process. Resulting information to inform provision of reasonable adjustments.	In Progress	An improved reception and induction process is in development that provides initially high level and later, more targeted disability screening questions. This information will highlight immediate accessibility adjustments required on presentation to the Court Transport Unit and subsequently a more detailed indicator of need at the Alexander Maconochie Centre induction for assessment by the Specialist Interventions Unit. Policy documents have been updated to reflect these changes and are currently out for stakeholder

Action Details		Action Status	
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			consultation. In addition to the consultation, preparatory work is underway regarding the introduction of the Hayes Ability Screening Index (HASI) tool. Once introduced, as part of the formal induction process, this screening tool will provide another level of disability screening for detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
3.3 Assessment brokerage fund	Brokerage fund available to support diagnosis for people interacting with the justice system with indicators of disability. Assessments will support clients to access appropriate supports, or the NDIS.	In progress – ongoing	The ACT Government continues to provide, subject to applications satisfying eligibility criteria, an ongoing 'fund of last resort' to support people in contact with the justice system to access functional and cognitive assessments.

Focus Area 4 – Better Service Delivery

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
4.1 Criminal justice diversion	Scoping of effective court-based diversionary programs for people with cognitive impairment and disability.	Not yet commenced	In 2024/25 JACS gave early consideration of approaches to effective diversionary mechanisms for people with disability. Meaningful progress is expected to be reported in the next Progress Report.
4.2 Build and expand upon success of Disability Liaison Officers across justice sector	Continuation of recently established DLO positions to enhance the capacity and capability to better respond to the needs of victims of crime and domestic and family violence, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and expand membership of the Disability Justice Community of Practice.	In Progress	Over recent Budgets, the Government has committed additional funding to establish temporary Disability Liaison Officer positions within Victim Support ACT, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, and the Aboriginal Legal Service. The Government is continuing to explore opportunities to extend these positions.
4.3 Improving Police Responses	Investigate options to ensure ACT Policing is adequately equipped to engage with people with disability according to their needs.	In Progress	ACT Policing is working to improve responses to people with disability through collaboration with the Disability Liaison Officer. Efforts include education on complex disability, creating easy-use resources, and exploring alternative reporting pathways.
4.4 ACT Policing's Better Practice Guide	Implementation and adoption of the Better Practice Guide amongst ACT Policing personnel.	In Progress	ACT Policing developed a Better Practice Guide in consultation with the disability community. The guide is currently under review to ensure its usefulness in - operational settings.

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
4.5 Therapeutic Support Panel	Provide therapeutic support and assessment for children and young people with disability who would previously have been in contact with the criminal justice system as part of reform to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.	In Progress	The Therapeutic Support Panel continues to guide and facilitate tailored therapeutic assessments and plans to address underlying drivers of harmful behaviours in children and young people, as well as their families, kin and carers. The panel continue to ensure that support is responsive to individual needs, particularly for those involved in the justice system who may have cognitive, psychosocial or developmental disabilities.
4.6 Partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community	Continue to strengthen relationships and establish partnerships to improve justice outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability or additional needs.	Not yet commenced	Work to progress this action to commence in future years.
4.7 Community of Practice	Community of Practice (CoP) assists the delivery of practical supports to people with disability and promote improved connections participating services. The expanded CoP will include participation of community sector advocates, and membership beyond Justice DLOs.	In Progress – Ongoing	Community of Practice meetings are held every 4 weeks. The Health and Community Services Directorate provide Chair and Secretariat duties for this forum. Multiple agencies (Restorative Justice Unit, Legal Aid, Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Children Youth and Families, Canberra Community Law, Aboriginal Legal Service, ACT Policing, ACT Courts and Tribunal, Victim Support ACT, ACT Corrective Service) actively participate in the Disability Justice Community of Practice. Activities include collaboration, referrals, policy development, and systemic improvements.

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
4.8 Disability Action and Inclusion Plans (DAIP)	Justice agencies and front-line responding agencies are supported to develop, review, and implement Disability Action and Inclusion Plans.	In Progress	The ACT Government engaged an external consultant to help deliver a Disability Action and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Master Class providing the tools and fundamental steps in developing and implementing DAIPs. This Master Class was delivered to all Disability Liaison Officers. Legal Aid ACT, Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Canberra Community Law, ACT Courts and Tribunal, Victim Support ACT, ACT Corrective Service, and Aboriginal Legal Service are progressing or implementing Disability Action and Inclusion Plans. Activities include consultation, policy review, and embedding inclusive practices.
4.9 ACT Intermediary Program	Expansion of Intermediary Program to include assistance to people with communications barriers who are accused.	In Progress	Victim Support ACT has increased referrals and awareness of the Intermediary Program, which supports people with communication barriers in justice processes. Referrals to the program increased by 33% in 2024/25.

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
4.10 Effective support for Court users	A six-month combined research project/service initiative that will enable more effective justice support for court users needing reasonable adjustments, including people with disability.	In Progress	The ACT Courts and Tribunal is actively expanding its therapeutic programs and has commissioned a disability report to enhance service delivery. Among its specialised offerings are therapeutic court and tribunal programs, a Guide Dogs therapy initiative, the Elders and Respected Persons Panel for Circle Court, and a dedicated Therapeutic and Client Services team—all aimed at better meeting the diverse needs of court users. In collaboration with the ACT Courts and Tribunal, the ACT Public Advocate launched a new duty advocate initiative in January 2025. This initiative places a duty advocate at the courts every weekday morning, significantly improving access to justice for vulnerable groups, including children, young people, and people with disability involved in protection matters. Early data on the duty advocate initiative shows promising outcomes: half of all referrals received post-launch were resolved at first contact and 28% required further support. The initiative is set to continue for an additional three months in 2025–26, with a final report to be completed to inform long-term service planning.

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
4.11 Youth Justice Throughcare	Deliver and implement the Youth Justice Throughcare Model currently being developed, with focus on improving supports and services to address the needs of young people with disability in contact with the youth justice system.	In Progress	The ACT Government is enhancing support for young people transitioning from detention, aligning with national standards. Services include case management and crisis accommodation, prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.
4.12 Youth Justice	Ensure the development of any new youth justice strategy takes a disability-informed and responsive approach.	In Progress	The ACT Government is developing a new Youth Justice Strategic Plan and has raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14. Therapeutic and crisis support services have been established to divert youth from the justice system.
4.13 Canberra Community Law's Socio-Legal Practice Clinic	The clinic will continue to provide socio-legal services to residents in the ACT and surrounds who have public housing, social security or disability discrimination problems.	In Progress	The Socio-Legal Practice Clinic has operated for 12 years. An independent evaluation confirmed its effectiveness and strong client feedback. The independent evaluation highlighted positive client feedback from the clinic.
4.14 Women's Legal Centre Internship	A one off 12-month paid internship program for a woman with disability studying Law or Social Work.	In Progress	The ACT Women's Legal Centre was supported by the Health and Community Services Directorate to provide the internship in 2024/25.

Focus Area 5 – Data, Research and Review

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
5.1 Data collection and analysis	Continued collection of data relating to support provided by Disability Liaison Officers. Inclusion of statistical data as part of Annual Progress Reporting.	In Progress – Ongoing	Agencies and Disability Liaison Officers are actively working to improve how disability-related data is collected and used. Legal Aid ACT and Children, Youth and Families are refining internal systems to better track client needs and inform policy. Canberra Community Law is leveraging demographic data to support law reform, while ACT Courts and Tribunal and ACT Corrective Services are building tools and dashboards to monitor disability support. ACT Policing has digitised intake processes to enhance data accuracy, and Victims Support ACT is aligning data efforts with strategic planning.
5.2 Improved information sharing	Continue use of consent-based approach to client referrals and information sharing. Develop a mechanism to enable the sharing of reasonable adjustment information to accompany the service user's journey through the justice system.	In Progress	Efforts are underway to enhance how disability-related information is shared across services. Legal Aid and Domestic Violence Crisis Service are developing consent-based sharing protocols, while Children, Youth and Families and Canberra Community Law are strengthening partnerships for warm referrals. ACT Courts and Tribunal and Victim Support ACT are building networks to support clients more holistically and ACT Corrective Services is exploring formal agreements to guide future information sharing

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
			practices.
5.3 Lived Experience Audits	People with disability will be supported to attend and provide independent feedback on accessibility and disability inclusion in a variety of justice environments.	Not yet commenced	This action to commence in future years.
5.4 AMC Disability Data Project	Collect and analyse data resulting from the screening and assessment processes embedded within AMC induction.	In Progress	ACT Corrective Services has developed a new population summary dashboard that includes basic, self-reported disability information. Work continues to improve the collection and digitisation of disability information as screening and induction processes evolve.
5.5 Evaluation	Monitor and evaluate implementation and outcomes of the Second Action Plan.	Not yet commenced	Work to evaluate the outcomes and impact of the Second Action Plan will be undertaken towards the end of the plan.
5.6 Review of Culturally Safe Practices	Undertake a review into the use of culturally safe practices for First Nations people with disability in criminal justice settings.	Not yet commenced	This commitment relates to a Disability Royal Commission recommendation. Initial discussions have been held with colleagues undertaking reviews across other Australian jurisdictions. Work to progress this action will start later in the life of the Second Action Plan.
5.7 Governance and oversight	Ongoing meetings of the Disability Justice Reference Group to support ongoing implementation.	In Progress – Ongoing	The Disability Justice Reference Group will continue to oversee the implementation of the Strategy and action plans. Membership of the Reference Group includes executives across government and non-government

Action Details		Action Status	
Action	Activities / Deliverables	Status	Reporting Summary
	Annual Progress Reporting of achievements against the action plan. Review and revise governance and oversight arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose.		justice agencies, disability advocacy and service providers, and people with disability and/or lived experience of the justice system. The Government will monitor progress of the action plan each year and provide a report to relevant Ministers which will be made publicly available. Annual Progress Reporting for the Disability Justice Strategy is now a statutory requirement under the <i>Disability Inclusion Act 2024</i>. Governance mechanisms are being strengthened across agencies. Legal Aid ACT and Children, Youth and Families have established oversight structures, while ACT Courts and Tribunal and ACT Corrective Services are using leadership groups and reference committees to guide strategic actions. ACT Policing is developing standards and procedures to support police interactions with people with disability.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Annual Progress Report highlights a strong start for the implementation of the Second Action Plan and for the continuation of the ACT Disability Justice Strategy's journey toward a more inclusive and equitable justice system. The breadth and depth of initiatives outlined in this report reflect a strong, cross-sector commitment to improving justice outcomes for people with disability in the ACT. While many actions are underway, demonstrating tangible progress, others remain in early stages, highlighting the need for continued focus and energy.

The collaborative efforts of government agencies, advocacy groups, and community organisations are driving systemic change, with lived experience increasingly shaping policy and practice. As implementation continues, sustained engagement, robust evaluation, and culturally safe approaches will be critical to ensuring that reforms are meaningful, inclusive, and enduring.

Together, we will continue to drive meaningful change and uphold the rights, safety, and dignity of all people with disability in the ACT justice system.



Justice and Community Safety Directorate
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September 2025