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**Call for  
submissions:**

New International

Disability Equity and

Rights Strategy

Easy Read

# About This Document

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| DFAT logo | This document is written for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We are also called DFAT.  When you see the word ‘we’ it means DFAT. |
| Icon for Easy Read - from The Easy Read Toolbox. | This document is written in an easy to read way.  We call it Easy Read. |
| Woman holds her finger to her face, looking puzzled. Above her is a thought bubble with question marks. | You might not know some words.  The first time we use those words they are blue.  We tell you what they mean. |
|  | They are also [at the back of this document](#_heading=h.30j0zll). |
|  |  |
| Page with an image of the globe and a person with a wheelchair.  Title is written at the top of it. | We are making a new International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy.  In this document we will call it the Strategy. |
| Arrows point from a sad face, to a checklist, to a happy face. | A strategy says how we will change things.  We want to know what people think should be in the strategy. |
| Woman smiling and holding 1 finger up. | The document tells you how to make a submissionabout the strategy.  A submission is when you:   * Tell us what you think * Send your thoughts to us. |

# About the Strategy

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| Scales evenly weighted.  Abled body people on one side, disabled people on the other. | Disability equityandrights are essential to our work across the world. |
| A group of people on individual podiums. | Equity means everyone gets exactly what they need to succeed.  Equity makes things equal. |
|  | We want people with disabilities to have their rights. |
|  | : |
| Person in a circle in the middle. Around them are food, water, house and decision icons, with green ticks next to them. | Rights are things every person should have.  They include:   * enough food and clean water. * fair and equal treatment. * a place to live. * allowed to make your own decisions. |
| A red check mark in a circle. | Essential is when something is very important.  It is so important it must be included. |
| Symbols for international aid on top of a picture of the globe with a wheelchair in the centre. | The Strategy will:   * Guide us when we help other countries |
| Symbols for international trade on top of a picture of the globe with a wheelchair in the centre. | * Help us prioritise disability equity and rights when working with other countries |
| List of 3 items, arrow pointing to number 1. | Priority is something that is the most important. |
| A magnifying glass with a globe and a wheelchair on it.  A text box asking is it working. | * Help us measure success. This will keep us accountable. |
| A person holding a paper with check marks and a speech bubble | Accountable means doing what you say you will do.  It includes:   * Explaining what you are doing * Fixing mistakes * Answering questions. |

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|  | **Other strategies** |
| A stack of papers with a wheelchair symbol | We are also working on other national and international strategies.  These include gender and other strategies. |
| A handshake in front of a clipboard with a list  and a stack of papers with a wheelchair symbol | We want to make sure our Strategy works well with these other strategies. |
|  | **We are listening** |
|  | 1. **We are listening to different people** |
| Two people talking. | It is important that we hear from different people about the Strategy. |
| A person with their hand on their chin. A speech bubble above them says My answer. | We want everyone to have a say. |
|  | We are listening to people from: |
| People symbols with different colours. | * Diverse backgrounds   Diverse backgrounds means people who grow up with different experiences. |
| A red circle with white pictograms of 2 children and two elderly people. | This could be people with different:   * Ages * Beliefs |
| Children writing in a classroom. | * Educations * Genders or sexualities. |
| Group of multicultural people. | It also means people:   * From different cultures * From different countries * Who have parents born in different countries * Who speak another language. |
| An ear with sound waves. | We are also listening to organisations who work with these people. |
|  | **2. We are listening to people with disabilities** |
| A checklist with a group of people. | We want to make sure that people with disabilities have a say on the Strategy. |
| A numbered list, with a checklist with a group of people at number 1. | This is a priority for us. |
| A lady in a wheelchair with a text box that says "we think" | We are listening to disability leaders. |
| An ear with sound waves. | We are also listening to organisations working with people with disabilities. |
|  | **3. We are listening to what we already know** |
| A magnifying glass over a document | The Strategy will also be guided by other evidence.  Evidence is information that shows that something is true. |
|  |  |

# Making a submission

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| Young man in a wheelchair. | We want submissions from people.  This includes people with disabilities. |
|  | What to think and write about |
| Page with an image of the globe and a person with a wheelchair.  Title is written at the top of it. | We want to have a Strategy to:   * Prioritise disability equity and rights * Help us work across the world. |
| A lightbulb connected to different icons and question marks. | We have 4 questions we want you to think and write about. |
| A number 1, 2 and a question mark. | Some of the questions have more than 1 part. |
| Woman with thought bubbles. One has a red cross, the other a green tick. | Question 1:  What are the most important things we should work on for disability equity and rights? |
| A signpost pointing 2 ways. One way has a red cross and the other has a green tick. | Question 2:  What are the best ways we can do this? |
| A man in a wheelchair thinking. | Question 3 Part 1:  How can we support people with disabilities to do this work? |
| A group of people sitting together. | Question 3 Part 2:  How can we support organisations working with people with disabilities to do this work? |
| A woman reading and with question marks. | Question 4 Part 1:  What could stop us improving disability equity and rights? |
| A person helping another person. | Question 4 Part 2:  What could help us to improve disability equity and rights? |
| A document with some ticks. | You do not need to answer every question. |
| World, question mark and hand writing in a notebook. | You might also share your thoughts about:   * Better ways of working * How to help one country * Treating people fairly |
| A pictogram of the sun, above a pictogram of a group of people. | * Keeping people with disabilities safe and free from harm * How the climate is changing. |

## How to make a submission

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Calendar. | Send your submission to us by **December 15 2023**. |
| Group of disabled people with communication icons. | People with disabilities want to be able to make submissions to government in different ways. |
| Communication icons. | So we have made accommodations around submissions. |
| Stairs with arrow pointing at a ramp. Stack of pages with arrow pointing at an Easy Read document. | Accommodations are changes made so something is more accessible. |
| A white envelope in a red circle.  A red envelope with a piece of paper.  A white camera in a red circle.  A red sound icon with waves. | Your submission can be:   * An email * A letter * A video * Audio or a recording of your voice * A message on WhatsApp. |
| A mouse cursor and arrow pointing to a link. | Please send us a link to your video or audio file.  You can send the link by WhatsApp or email or letter. |
| A person reading an Easy Read document. | [Read more](#_Using_and_Sending) about sharing video and audio files with us [later in this document](#_Using_and_Sending). |
| email icon | Send your email to:  [disability.equity@dfat.gov.au](mailto:disability.equity@dfat.gov.au) |
| A group of documents with page numbers 1 to 5 and a green tick. Another document with 6+ pages numbers and a Red Cross. | If you write a letter it must be 5 pages or less. |
| A letter with address and stamp. | Send your letter to:  Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Branch  Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent  Barton ACT 0221  Australia |
| Woman smiling and holding 1 finger up. | We want everyone to be able to make a submission. You can email us if you:   * Have questions about your submission * Have any **accessibility** needs or accommodations |
| Icons representing Auslan, Easy Read, Disability Access and the World Wide Web. | Accessibility is when everyone can use and understand something. |

## Privacy of your submission

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Woman holding 1 finger to her lips to say shush. | **Privacy** is when something is private.  That means only some people can know it. |
| A group of people walking on a Sydney street. | Submissions are **public**.  That means anyone can read your submission.  Everyone can know what you say. |
| Laptop with internet icon. | It will be on [our website](https://www.dfat.gov.au/). |
| A magnifying glass with info sign | This includes any personal information you include. |
| People walking with a red cross over them. | You can ask us to keep parts of your submission **confidential**. |
| Woman holding 1 finger to her lips to say shush. | Confidential means that we will keep it more private: |
| DFAT logo with large tick | * People working in our team can see it |
| Laptop with internet icon with large cross over the top. | * People in the public cannot see it. * It is not on our website. |
| 2 documents. 1 marked public with a tick and the other marked confidential with a cross. | If you want to include confidential information you should:   * Put it in a different document * Make it easy to see which document is confidential. |
| Laptop with DFAT logo and a large tick | When you send your submission you are agreeing we can use it. |
| Document with red comments and crossed on it. | We will not change your submission. |

## Do not include in your submission

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|  | We will not publish submissions which include: |
| Speech bubble with swearing icons and hand with middle finger up. Large red cross over both. | * Anything offensive   This means it might upset someone else. |
| Group of girls with tick. 1 girl segregated from the others with a red cross over them. | * Any **discrimination**   Discrimination is when you are treated badly  because of something different about you. |
| People symbols with different colours. | This might be because of your gender, disability, religion or more. |
| 2 police officers with large red cross. | * Anything **illegal**   Illegal is when something breaks the law. |
| Sad person. Behind them is a group of people saying bad things about them. | * Any **defamation**   When you include information, photos or more that might hurt someone’s **reputation**. |
| Happy person. Behind them is a group of people saying goodthings about them. | Your reputation is what other people think about you. |
| Icons of swearing with a large cross over them. | * Any **threatening or aggressive language**   This includes abuse, talking about hurting others, swearing and more. |
| Laptop with DFAT logo on screen. | Read more about this [on our website](https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/about-this-website/Pages/disclaimer). |

## Using and Sending Video and Audio

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| A stopwatch showing 10 minutes. | Video and audio must be 10 minutes or shorter. |
| film with an arrow pointing to a computer screen with icons for video and audio sites. | Upload your video or audio to a site like:   * YouTube * Vimeo * SoundCloud |
| A name tag with 'First name' and 'Last name'. | Use your first and last name in the name of the file. |
| Large eye with a green check mark | Make sure your file:   * Is public * Can be seen by anyone. |
| A red lock with eye and a cross | You can add a password to your file.  That will make it more private.  The password must be: IDERS. |
| A red arrow pointing to a button saying share. | Click on ‘Share’ to get the right link to send to us.  Do not use the link in the address bar. |
| icon for a link points at icons for a letter and an email. | Send the link to us [by email](mailto:disability.equity@dfat.gov.au), letter, or WhatsApp.  Let us know if you have added a password. |
| WhatsApp logo | You can send the link via WhatsApp to  +61 403 736 681 |

# Word List

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| --- | --- |
| Icons representing Auslan, Easy Read, Disability Access and the World Wide Web. | **Accessibility**  Accessibility is when everyone can use and understand something. |
| Stairs with arrow pointing at a ramp. Stack of pages with arrow pointing at an Easy Read document. | Accommodations  Changes made so something is more accessible. |
| A person holding a paper with check marks and a speech bubbl | Accountable  Accountable means doing what you say you will do.  It includes:   * Explaining what you are doing. * Fixing mistakes. * Answering questions. |
| People walking with a red cross over them. | **Confidential**  Confidential means that we will keep it private:  ● People working in our team can see it.  ● People in the public cannot see it.  ● It is not on our website. |
| Sad person. Behind them is a group of people saying bad things about them. | **Defamation**  When you include information, photos or more that might hurt someone’s **reputation**. |
| People symbols with different colours. | Diverse backgrounds  Diverse background means people who grow up with different experiences.  This could be people with different:   * Ages * Beliefs * Educations * Genders or sexualities. |
| Group of multicultural people. | It also means people:   * From different cultures * From different countries * Who have parents born in different countries * Who speak another language. |
| Group of girls with tick. 1 girl segregated from the others with a red cross over them. | Discrimination  Discrimination is when you are treated badly because of something different about you.  This might be because of your gender, disability, religion or more. |
| Icon for Easy Read - from The Easy Read Toolbox. | **Easy Read**  A document written in an easy to read way. |
| A group of people on individual podiums | Equity  Equity means everyone gets exactly what they need to succeed.  Equity makes things equal. |
| A red check mark in a circle. | Essential  Essential is when something is very important.  It is so important it must be included. |
| 2 police officers with large red cross. | **Illegal**  Illegal is when something breaks the law. |
| Speech bubble with swearing icons and hand with middle finger up. Large red cross over both. | Offensive  This means it might upset someone else. |
| List of 3 items, arrow pointing to number 1. | Priority  Priority is something important. |
| Woman holding 1 finger to her lips to say shush. | Privacy  This is when something is private.  That means only some people can know it. |
| A group of people walking on a Sydney street. | Public  That means anyone can read your submission.  Everyone can know what you say. |
| Happy person. Behind them is a group of people saying goodthings about them. | Reputation  Your reputation is what other people think about you. |
| Person in a circle in the middle. Around them are food, water, house and decision icons, with green ticks next to them. | Rights  Rights are things every person should have. They include:   * enough food and clean water. * fair and equal treatment. * a place to live. * allowed to make your own decisions. |
| Arrows point from a sad face, to a checklist, to a happy face. | Strategy  A strategy says how we will change things.  We want to know what people think of our strategy. |
| Woman smiling and holding 1 finger up. | Submission  A submission is when you:   * Tell us what you think * Send your thoughts to us. |
| Icons of swearing with a large cross over them. | Threatening or aggressive language  This includes abuse, talking about hurting others, swearing and more. |

Easy Read document written by Jacqueline Gibb, [The Easy Read Toolbox](https://www.easyreadtoolbox.info/) for DFAT including images and text. Cover image provided.