

## National Voice Disability Advisory Group

In 2015, nearly one in four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were living with a disability for at least six months. Of these people, nearly a third were living with severe or profound disability at the time.<sup>1</sup>

Because of this, the proposed National Voice would have a permanent Disability Advisory Group made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lived experience of disability.

This group would give advice to the National Voice on how laws and policies impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

The Disability Advisory Group would also bring issues to the attention of the National Voice.



### Disability in the Indigenous community

There are many different kinds of disabilities that people experience. These include deafness, blindness, cognitive impairment, mental illness, and physical disabilities, among other experiences of disability.

Having a disability can affect a person's participation in all sorts of ways, including in ways that are not obvious to others.

People with disability can also experience discrimination, even if it is done unintentionally and/or unconsciously.

The actions or inaction of others can also limit the ability of a person with disability to participate in discussions about laws and policies that affect them.

The significant proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disability increases the importance of making sure their voices are heard when laws and policies are made that affect their lives.

The National Co-design Group looked at these issues and decided it was important that a National Voice have a permanent Disability Advisory Group. This would be a group the National Voice can call on to make sure the impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability are considered when relevant to any advice being sought by the Parliament or Government.

This group would also bring any matter it thinks is important to the attention of the National Voice.

The Disability Advisory Group would not replace or undermine any existing bodies or structures.



We want to hear your views on how a Disability Advisory Group might benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, and what sorts of issues you think should be looked at by this group.



### Have your say

You can have your say by:

- providing a submission on the proposal at [voice.niaa.gov.au](https://voice.niaa.gov.au)
- undertaking a survey at [voice.niaa.gov.au](https://voice.niaa.gov.au)
- sharing your views and ideas on social media tagging #IndigenousVoice
- holding a community discussion or go to a stakeholder meeting if it is COVID safe to do so
- sharing the materials with your family, friends and community.



Visit [voice.niaa.gov.au](https://voice.niaa.gov.au) to provide a submission, complete the survey or learn more about the Indigenous Voice proposals.

<sup>1</sup> AIHW 2019, *Disability support for Indigenous Australians*.