

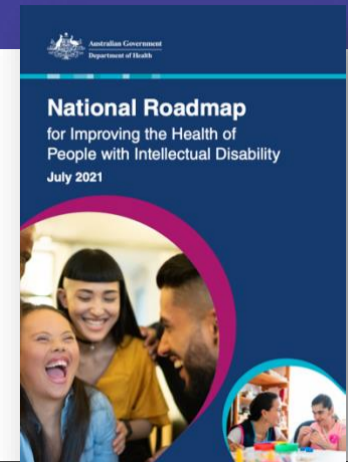
National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability in Australia

MISSING BILLION

Geography and scale:	Australia; national
Type of disability:	People with intellectual disability

Involved actors:

- Australian Government Department of Health
- People with intellectual disability, family members and carers
- Advocacy organisations
- Clinical and academic experts
- Disability service provider organisations
- Additional Commonwealth agencies and state and territory governments.



Best practice description

The [National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability](#) (the Roadmap) was launched in August 2021 after an extensive consultation process. The Roadmap is a landmark document that sets out a comprehensive range of actions to improve the health of people with intellectual disability. Key objectives include:

1. Improve support for people with intellectual disability, their families and carers (e.g., health literacy resources, disability liaison officers in health services).
2. Develop better models of care that are person-centred, trauma-informed, and with reasonable adjustments (e.g., toolkits, best practice guidelines and clinical standards).
3. Provide support for health professionals, including training to provide quality, appropriate and disability informed health care.
4. Improve oral health by integrating it into general health care and by promoting access to existing dental services.
5. Strengthen research, data and measurement of health outcomes.
6. Improve emergency preparedness and response to meet the needs of people with intellectual disability.

Specific programs will implement these objectives over the next 10 years. The Roadmap Implementation Governance Group (RIGG) will oversee implementation of the Roadmap. Membership of the RIGG includes people with intellectual disability, family members and carers; health and disability sector representatives; academic experts; Commonwealth, and state and territory government representatives.

Origin / impetus for best practice

- Around 450,000 people have intellectual disability in Australia (1.8% of the Australian population).
- Compared to the general population, Australians with intellectual disability have higher rates of avoidable deaths, hospitalisations and health conditions.
- In 2019, the Australian Council for Intellectual Disability, in collaboration with Inclusion Australia, launched the “Our Health Counts” campaign to end deadly disability discrimination across Australia.
- A Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability was established in April 2019 in response to widespread concern from the community.
- The Roadmap was approved by the Australian Government Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, in July 2021.

Impact / results of implementing best practice

- Establishing the RIGG and its sub-committees (Intellectual Disability Focus Group, Education and Training Expert Advisory Group, and National Centre of Excellence Expert Advisory Group) to oversee projects.
- To date, \$19.26 million in Australian Government funding:
 - \$6.6 million to develop a Primary Care Enhancement Program for people with intellectual disability
 - \$6.7 million to improve the uptake and implementation of Annual Health Assessments
 - \$4.7 million for curriculum development in intellectual disability health, and
 - \$1.4 million to scope and co-design a National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

Critical success factors for best practice

- Including people with lived experience of intellectual disability when developing and implementing the Roadmap.
- Use of best available evidence to highlight the need to take action.
- Powerful disability advocacy and strong political commitment.
- Cooperation and commitment from a wide range of actors, including Commonwealth and state and territory governments, private and not-for-profit providers, universities and health professional bodies.

Impact statement

The Roadmap aims to address serious health inequities faced by people with intellectual disability. It outlines how Australia can create a health system where people with intellectual disability are valued, respected and have access to high quality, timely and comprehensive health care.

Lessons learned

- Robust governance arrangements need to be established early and sustained.
- Meetings need to be accessible for people with intellectual disability (providing materials in Easy Read, asking presenters to speak slowly, and offering pre-meeting briefing).
- Progress reports and communiques are made publicly available to ensure all parties are held accountable for action.
- Strong advocacy from disability and health organisations is needed to ensure continued implementation and funding of projects.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ¹ National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability ² Roadmap Implementation Governance Group (RIGG) ³ RIGG Meeting communiques
----------------	---

Further links & information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to the National Roadmap for action! End Deadly Disability Discrimination • The road to the Roadmap - Council for Intellectual Disability • How will the Roadmap help people with intellectual disability - video
--	---