



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Disability Safeguards Consultation

Common questions

Part 1





Australian Government

**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

The Australian Government Department of Health Disability and Ageing wrote this.

We say **DHDA** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means DHDA.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

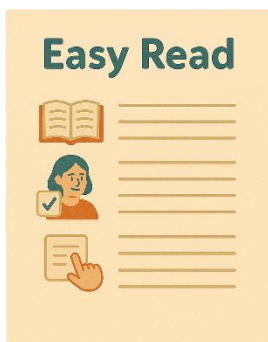
Bold

We have some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



We can answer any questions by email.

Email us disabilitysafeguards@aha.com.au



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



They were the **first people** to live on and use the

- Land
- Waters.

Contents

About this document	5
What is the Safeguarding Framework and Strategy	12
What does safeguarding mean	17
Why are we making the Safeguarding Framework and Strategy	20
NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework	26
Contact us	29

About this document



This document is about common questions people have.

It has **2 parts**.



Part 1 has information to questions about

- What we want to do



- Why we want to do it



- Other work that has been done



- How this work will help us.



Part 2 has information to questions about

- Who can take part



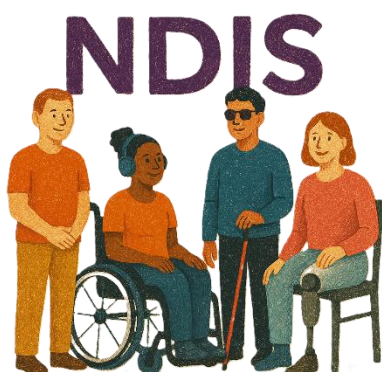
- How long it will take us to do the work



Creating
an inclusive
community
together

- **Australia's Disability Strategy**

We call it **ADS** for short.



- **NDIS.**



You can read about the **consultation** on our website.

consultations.health.gov.au/disability-and-carers-group/disability-safeguards-consultation/

It is in Easy Read.



Consultation is when the government works with the disability community.

It makes sure that the government is listening to communities.

This helps the government make better plans to support people with disability.



The consultation is about writing the

- Disability Support **Quality** and **Safeguarding Framework**

We call it the **Safeguarding Framework** for short.



Quality means services that

- Helps people



- People get what they need



- People feel happy with the service



- The service does everything they are supposed to.



Safeguarding means protecting people with disability from harm.



A framework is how we will do something.



- Disability Support **Ecosystem**
Safeguarding **Strategy**

We call it the **Safeguarding Strategy** for short.



Ecosystem is everything working together.

This means that disability services work together to support people with disability.



A strategy is a plan for how to do something.

What is the Safeguarding Framework and Strategy



The Australian Government wants to make **safeguards** better for people with disability.



Safeguards are things that protect the **rights** of people.

Rights are **rules** about treating everyone

- Fair
- Equal.



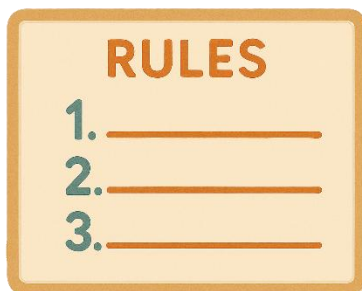
To make it safe for people with disability the government is making the Safeguarding

- Framework
- Strategy.



They will make sure disability supports are working together on

- Quality
- Safeguarding.



They will

- Set rules and ways to work for services and supports for people with disability



- **Empower** people with disability to be able to get good services and use safeguards

Empower means give you the confidence to speak up for what you need.



- Make safeguards stronger for people with disability

This also means safeguards working together.



We will use lots of ideas to write the Safeguarding

- Framework
- Strategy.



We will use ideas

- We hear in this consultation



- People have already told us.



We want to learn how people feel about

- Quality
- Safeguarding

For people with disability.



We want to hear from

- People with disability



- Their family



- Carers



- Advocates

An advocate is someone who supports you to speak up for your **rights**.

It can also be called **advocacy**.



- Support networks.



This will help us write the Safeguarding

- Framework
- Strategy.

What does safeguarding mean



The NDIS Quality Safeguarding Framework say **safeguards** means



Actions that protect the rights of people to be safe from harm like

- **Violence**

Violence is when someone hurts your body.



- **Abuse**

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



- **Neglect**

Neglect is when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to.



- **Exploitation**

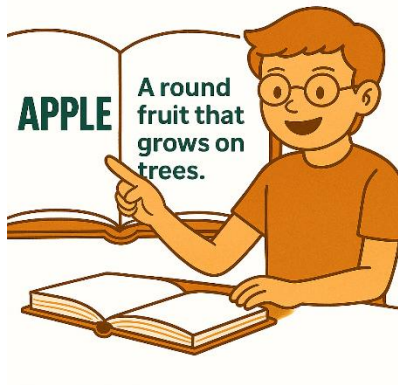
Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Safeguards also help people have

- Choice
- Control

Over their lives.



We want to make sure this **definition** covers everything safeguarding means.

Definitions explain what a word or idea means.



We will use what people tell us to make sure the definition is right.

Why are we making the Safeguarding Framework and Strategy



The **Disability Royal Commission** looked at how people with disability are treated.

We call it **DRC** for short.



DRC helped us to understand more about how people with disability experience

- Violence



- Abuse



- Neglect



- Exploitation.



DRC wrote a report.

The report had **recommendations**.

Recommendations are ideas to do things better.



DRC found that people with disability had more of a **risk** of abuse than people without disability.

Risks are the chance that something bad might happen to you.



DRC also said people with disability were more likely to be a **victim of crime**.

A victim of crime is a person who has been treated badly by someone who has broken the **law**.

Like someone stole from them.

Laws are **rules** for how we live.



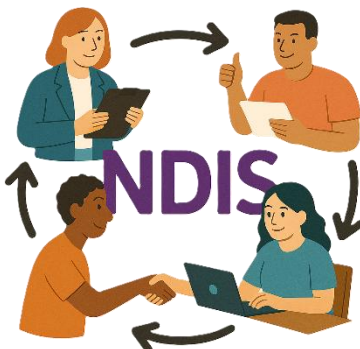
The DRC recommendations said to improve safeguards for people with disability.



The NDIS **review** was done in 2023.

A review is when you check what

- Works
- Needs to change.



The NDIS Review looked at

- The way NDIS works



- How **NDIS providers** could support people with disability better.

NDIS providers get money from your NDIS plan to help support you.



The NDIS Review wrote recommendations.

The recommendations said to improve safeguards for people with disability.



This includes the **Disability Reform Ministerial Council** doing work on safeguards.

We call it **DRMC** for short.



The **DRMC** is a group of Disability **Ministers** from

- The Australian Government
- State and territory governments.

Ministers are leaders in an area of the government.



To work on all the recommendations the government will make the Safeguarding

- Framework
- Strategy.



DRMC will check the Safeguarding

- Framework
- Strategy

Before we start using them.

NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework



The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework was made in 2016.

It was done when the NDIS was started in states and territories.



The government did a review.

They wrote a paper.



They found the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework

- Did **not** have any changes between when it started and now

That means there were no updates to it.



- It only worked for people with NDIS support

Instead of all people with disability.



- Did **not** have a good way to let people make their own choices



- Did **not** have ways for people with disability to protect themselves



- Did **not** say clearly who was responsible for doing safeguards.

This made it confusing for

- Different people
- Organisations.



The government will think of all these things when they write the Safeguarding

- Framework
- Strategy.



The government wants the Safeguarding

- Framework
- Strategy

To support **all** people with disability.

Contact us



You can contact us if you **need more information.**



You can write to AHA

You can write in any language.



You can send us an email.

disabilitysafeguards@aha.com.au



You can call us.

03 8632 9505

You can call us between



- 9am
- 5pm **AEST**

Between

- Monday
- Friday.



AEST is the time in

- Canberra
- New South Wales
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Queensland

When it is **not** daylight savings time.

If you live somewhere else you will need to check what time to call.



You can send us a letter.

Disability safeguards consultation

AHA

Reply Paid 86905

Locked Bag 32005

Collins Street East Vic 8003



If you need an **interpreter** you can call
Translating and Interpreting Service on

13 14 50

We call it **TIS National** for short.

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August 2026.