



National  
Disability  
Data Asset

## The National Disability Data Asset

What have we learned from the test cases?

September 2021

An Easy Read report



## How to use this report



The National Disability Data Asset Team wrote this report. When you see the word 'we', it means the National Disability Data Asset Team.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold  
**Bold**

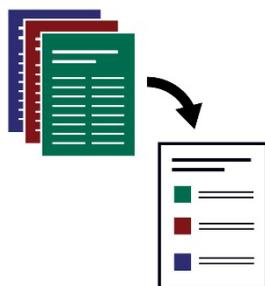
We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 29.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## What's in this report?

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## What is the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)?



The NDDA will be a new way to link **data** about people with disability.

When we talk about data, we mean:



- facts
- information
- records.

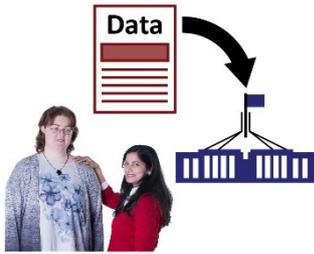
The NDDA will get the data from:



- different parts of the government



- surveys we have now.



The NDDA will also get data from organisations that:

- work with people with disability
- give data to the government.



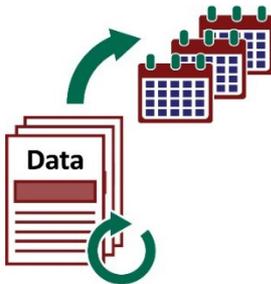
The NDDA will help us understand the **outcomes** for people with disability.



Outcomes are the important results we want to get for people with disability.



The NDDA is a growing collection of data.



We will update it with new data over time.

## Why do we need a National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)?



We need to get better outcomes for people with disability.

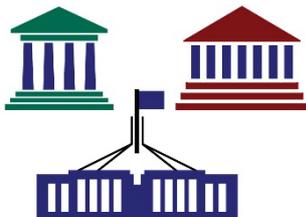


We can use data to help people make better decisions.

When we talk about people, we mean:



- people with disability



- all levels of government



- the **disability sector**.

The disability sector includes:



- people with disability



- service providers



- support workers



- organisations that speak up for people with disability.

## What is a test case?



A **test case** is when we:

- work out how to get good data
- show why linked data is good.

We made the test cases to show how linked data can:



- measure outcomes for people with disability



- support new **policies** and research



- make policies and services better.



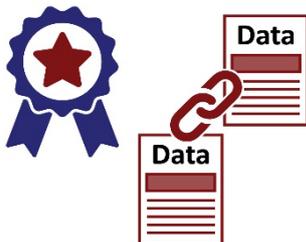
A policy is a plan for how we should do things.

## Testing different ways of getting data



Each test case looked at different ways to:

- link data
- use data.



This means we can work out how to link data we have now in better ways.



We faced some challenges when we got different data from each test case.



One of these challenges was how well our technology worked to:

- link the data
- analyse the data – work out what it means.



This means we will need to make our technology better so it can handle lots of data.



Using all types of data about people with disability helps us understand all people with disability.



Each test case used a different way to tell if someone was a person with disability.



This means we could look at the different ways to tell if someone was a person with disability and see what:

- worked well
- could be better.

## What were our test cases about?

### Housing services data



This test case was about data about people with disability who use housing services.



Housing services support people with disability where they live.

This test case:



- used data from different states and territories



- talked about people with disability from all age groups.



There was lots of linked data about people with disability who use housing services.

## What other data do we need for the housing services data test case?



Lots of people with disability use housing.

1/10



We know nearly 1 in 10 people with disability live in **public housing**.



When someone lives in public housing, they live in a home for people who need support to pay the **rent**.



Rent is the money you pay to live in a home someone else owns.



We need to do more research to work out why some people with disability can't find and use housing services.



We need more data about other housing services.

This will help us understand:



- who uses different housing services



- outcomes people get from housing services



- how people move between different housing services.

## Mental health services for people with disability



This case study was about **mental health services**.



Mental health services support people with their mental health problems.



A mental health service can be an:

- organisation
- individual.



We linked Victorian and national data about people with mental health problems.



This test case will help us understand how many people with disability use mental health services.

## What other data do we need for the test case on mental health services for people with disability?



We must support disability and health services to:

- get data about people with disability
- share that data.

This will help us understand:



- how people with disability use mental health services



- what people with disability want for their health



- how we can make health services better for people with disability.

## Early childhood supports



This test case was about support for children with disability during their early childhood – before they start school.



This includes children with **developmental delay**.



When a child has a developmental delay, it means they don't grow or develop how other children their age do.



When we say children with disability, we also mean children with developmental delay.



It is good for children with disability to take part in early childhood learning.



Children with disability can get good results from early childhood learning.



In this test case we looked at all children in New South Wales (NSW).

### What other data do we need for the early childhood supports test case?

We can learn more about children with disability by:



- looking at data about children from all parts of Australia



- making sure we have good data.

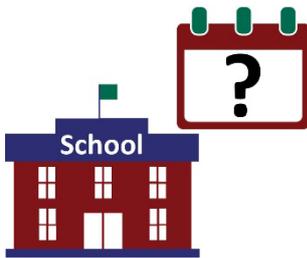


We can also look at data about what family life is like for children with disability.



We can learn more about what life is like for children with disability in their:

- home
- community



We want to know how many days children with disability:

- go to school
- miss school.



We want to know what stops children with disability getting the services and supports they need.

## People with disability who are involved in the justice system



The **justice system** includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



This test case was about people with disability who were involved with the justice system.



People with disability might be involved in the justice system if they're a **victim**.

A victim is someone who experiences a **crime**.



A crime is when someone:

- does something bad to someone else
- breaks the law.



People with disability might be involved in the justice system if they're an **offender**.



An offender is someone who:

- does something bad to someone else
- breaks the law.

↑ **99 million**



We linked more than 99 million records.



In our test case, we looked at 2.8 million people with disability who came into contact with:

- the justice system
- disability services.

## First Nations peoples



### Disability

First Nations languages don't have a word for disability.



Many First Nations peoples don't say if they:

- are First Nations peoples
- have a disability.



But there are lots of First Nations peoples with disability.



And there are lots of First Nations peoples with disability involved in the justice system.



But we know First Nations peoples might not:

- say they are a First Nations person
- say they have a disability
- tell the police about a crime.



We must get data about First Nations peoples with disability from other places.



It will take time to get that data.

### What other data do we need for the test case on people with disability who are involved in the justice system?

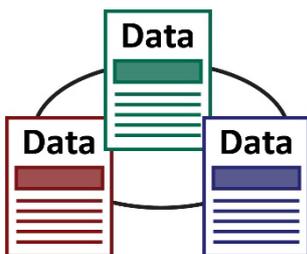


We need better ways to work out if people involved in the justice system are people with disability.

We must look at:



- data from other places



- how all the data works together.

When people with disability are involved in the justice system, we need data about their:



- early childhood



- school and learning



- health care.



We need better ways to support people with disability when they are involved in the justice system.

## Leaving school and starting work

This test case was about young people with disability who:



- leave school



- start new learning or training



- keep studying when they leave school



- start working.

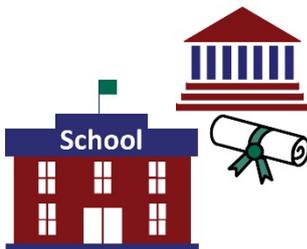


There was lots of linked data in this test case.



We looked at different data about young people with disability.

## What other data do we need for the test case on leaving school and starting work?



All governments have an **Education Department**.



Education Departments looks after:

- government schools
- some things about non-government schools
- teaching and learning.



Education Departments keep data about:

- students with disability
- their school experiences
- learning outcomes.



But they don't collect data about schools the government doesn't run.

This includes:



- independent schools

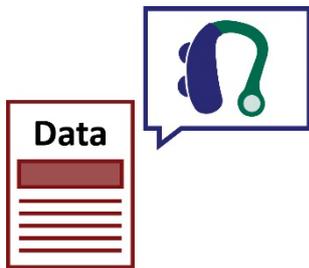


- Catholic schools.



We need ways to work out if students with disability have:

- one disability
- more than one disability.



The data about some students with more than one disability might talk about one of their disabilities.

This disability might change over time.



But another disability might make a bigger difference to their outcomes at:

- school
- work.

## What have we learned from the test cases?

We have worked hard to make sure the NDDA



- has lots of good data



- will work well for a long time.



We must do more work to make sure the NDDA has the right data if it keeps going.



We must make our technology better so it can handle lots of data.



If we have lots of data about people with disability, we can understand people with disability better.

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### **Crime**

A crime is when someone:

- does something bad to someone else
- breaks the law.



### **Data**

When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.



### **Developmental delay**

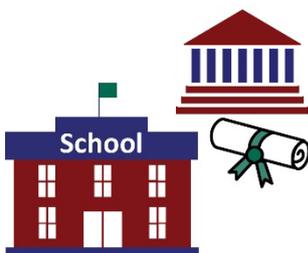
When a child has a developmental delay, it means they don't grow or develop how other children their age do.

### **Education Department**

All governments have an Education Department.

Education Departments looks after:

- government schools
- some things about non-government schools
- teaching and learning.





## Justice system

The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



## Mental health services

Mental health services support people with their mental health problems.



## Offender

An offender is someone who:

- does something bad to someone else
- breaks the law.



## Outcomes

Outcomes are the important results we want to get for people with disability.



## Policy

A policy is a plan for how we should do things.



## Public housing

When someone lives in public housing, they live in a home for people who need support to pay the rent.



## Rent

Rent is the money you pay to live in a home someone else owns.



## Test case

A test case is when we:

- work out how to get good data
- show why linked data is good.



## Victim

A victim is someone who experiences a crime.

## Contact us



You can visit our website.

[www.ndda.gov.au](http://www.ndda.gov.au)



You can also email the Department of Social Services (DSS) for more information.

[NDDA@dss.gov.au](mailto:NDDA@dss.gov.au)



If you have trouble hearing or speaking, you can contact the National Relay Service.



You can call them.

**133 677**



You can also visit their website.

[www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)



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