



Association for
Children with a
Disability

Strategic Plan 2020–2023

About ACD

The Association for Children with a Disability (ACD) is the leading organisation advocating for children with disability and their families in Victoria. We are a not-for-profit organisation led by and for families.

Our vision

That children with disability and their families have the same rights and opportunities as other children and families.

Our work

- We **empower** families with knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve the best for their children.
- We **advocate** for children with disability and their families.
- We **educate** service providers, professionals and the community to be inclusive of children with disability and to work in partnership with families.
- We **influence** governments and public policy to advance the rights of children with disability and their families.

Rights basis

Our work is informed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, as well as Australian and Victorian legislation which enshrine these rights into law.

Who we work with

ACD supports all families in Victoria with children with disability from birth to 18 years old. We support families to prepare for their child's transition to adulthood. We are inclusive of all disability. We work to ensure we are accessible to families across Victoria.

Our history

In 1980, a small group of families of children with disability met to try and stop the closure of a respite facility for children.

These families went on to establish the Association for Children with a Disability (ACD). What began from self-interest soon moved to a cause much greater as they tackled other issues affecting all children with disability.

They had ideas about how the system and services could be improved. They worked collectively for positive change in the community.

These families were trail-blazers and led the way for others who would follow. These families hoped for a better future for their children.



Families and their love for their children
is the driving force of ACD.

Our priority areas

There are four priority areas where we want to make a difference:

1. Safety of children

- Increase the knowledge and skills of families to assess and monitor the quality and safety of services, support their children to raise concerns and involve their children in decision-making.
 - Increase the skills and confidence of families to raise concerns with regulatory bodies and support families to make submissions to the Disability Royal Commission.
 - Advocate to improve the safety of children with disability.
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2. NDIS and other services

- Increase the knowledge and skills of families to navigate the NDIS and other available services.
 - Increase the skills and confidence of families to advocate for the NDIS plan and services that will best support their child and family.
 - Advocate to improve how the NDIS supports children and families.
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3. Education and employment

- Increase families' understanding of their child's education rights and increase their aspirations for their child.
 - Increase the skills and confidence of families to work in partnership with schools and advocate for their child's education.
 - Advocate to improve the education and employment outcomes and opportunities for children with disability.
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4. Support for families

- Increase families' knowledge and connection with services and support for their child and family.
- Increase the capability of schools, health services and communities to be inclusive of children with disability and work in partnership with families.
- Advocate for more support for families.

Measuring our progress

ACD is committed to measuring our progress against our four priority areas. We have a monitoring and evaluation framework which assesses:

How much we do

- Efficiently deliver as many services as possible.

Who we reach

- Ensure our reach reflects the diversity of Victorian families.

How we connect with families

- Provide services that are understanding, knowledgeable and empowering.

How we make a difference

- Positively impact the lives of children with disability and their families.



"To be given information is really empowering — that's where ACD gave me confidence." Parent