

DISABILITY JUSTICE STRATEGY

EASY ENGLISH PUBLIC

DISCUSSION PAPER

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATES

August 2018

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DISCUSSION PAPER

The justice system is a very important part of our community. It helps to keep people safe and make sure that people follow the rules to make our community a fair place to live. The justice system includes lawyers, police, courts, tribunals and prisons.

Everyone has human rights. This should mean that all people are treated fairly and that all people can get the help they need, when they need it. This includes in the justice system. But we know that people are not always treated fairly. People with disability do not always get the help they need from the justice system.

Australia made a promise that people with disability would be treated fairly. It is important that we keep that promise. The ACT Government made the same promise that people with disability would be treated fairly.

The ACT Government wants to make the justice system better for people with disability. We want to make a plan to change the parts that are not working very well. This plan is called a Disability Justice Strategy and it will help everyone in the justice system to do a better job.

The ACT Government needs your help. We want to hear your story so we can learn how to fix the types of problems you have had. That way all people with disability can have a fair go in the justice system.

Here are some things we have heard about the experiences of people with disability:

* Legal words and papers can be hard to understand and people don’t always know what they have to do. This might mean you get in trouble or make mistakes because you don’t understand.
* People know they need help but don’t know where to go.
* People don’t believe you because you have a disability.
* People don’t let you make decisions because you have a disability.
* People who are meant to look after you, have hurt you and won’t help you to get the assistance you need.
* You keep getting in trouble again and again because you do not have the support you need.
* People don’t understand how to give you the support you need.
* You have debt or housing problems and don’t know why and you don’t know how to get help.

Maybe you have had the same type of problems. Or maybe you have had different problems. The ACT Government wants to hear your story to make sure we work to fix the problems in the justice system.

You can tell us anything you want to share. We know that sometimes people have a hard time when they engage with courts or police, when they have issues with contracts or housing and when they need support to make decisions.

When you think about times it has been hard for you, we would like to know:

* What were the things that made it hard for you?
* Were there any things that made it easier for you? Can you think of anything that would have helped you?

We have made some times so that people can come along and tell us their story. We would like to invite you to attend one of our community conversations.

* 29 August 12noon – 2pm Tuggeranong Community Centre; or
* 10 September 5.30 - 7.30pm Woden Community Centre.

If you want to meet privately with someone from the team to tell your story then that is ok. You can bring someone to support you if you want. Just give us a call on 6207 1086 or email ACTdisabilityjustice@act.gov.au If you want to share your story or answer some of our questions in writing then you can email them to ACTdisabilityjustice@act.gov.au

We will not share your personal story, or make any information about you public, unless you tell us it is ok. It is up to you.



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