



# National Disability Research Partnership

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May 2022

# Why disability research?

- 18% of Australians have a disability
- The UNCPRD describes disability as *'those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others'*. Australia is a signatory.
- Compared to Australians without disability, Australians with disability have
  - worse outcomes across all life domains including education, housing, employment, social participation and health
  - higher levels of violence, abuse and neglect
- Knowledgebase regarding how to achieve equitable outcomes for people with disability is fragmented
- This is despite unprecedented government investment in specialised disability services and support through the NDIS (\$30 billion/year and set to rise), income support (e.g., DSP \$18 billion/year), disability employment services etc.
- And despite the Australian Disability Strategy (2021-2031) which has the vision for an inclusive Australian society that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community.

# New investments in disability research

- \$12.5 million funding to NDRP over two years; likely to grow.
- \$40 million funding to National Disability Data Asset
- Bipartisan support for NDRP and NDDA



**NDIS Quality  
and Safeguards  
Commission**



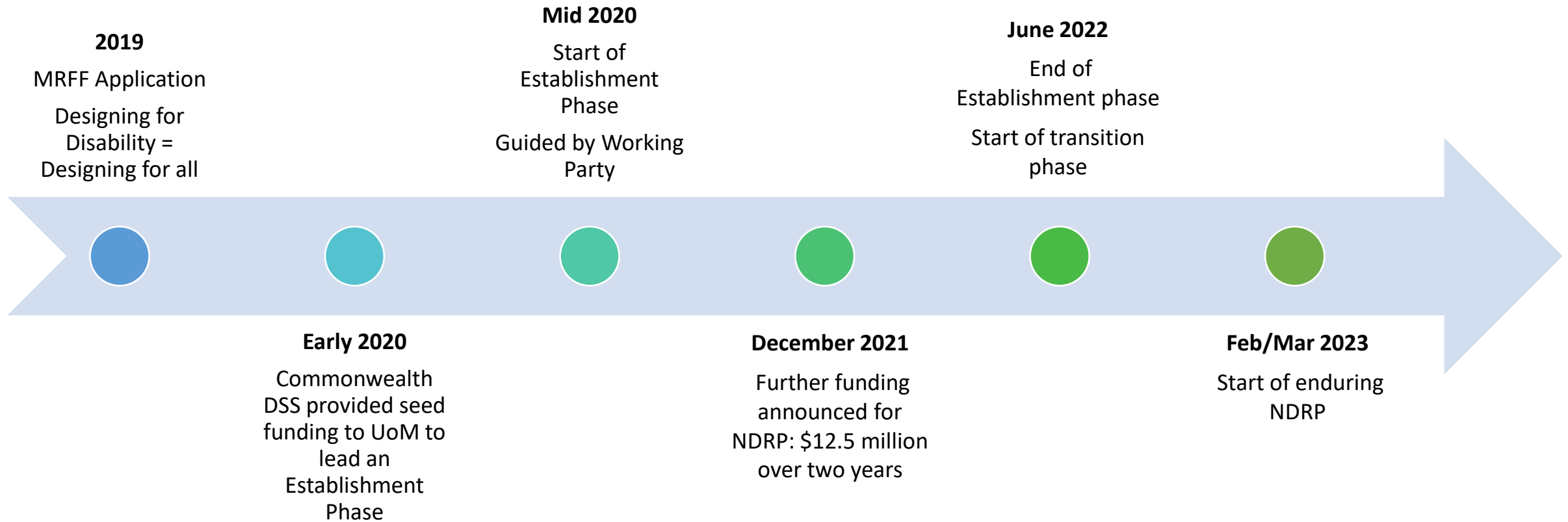
**National  
Disability  
Data Asset**



Creating  
an inclusive  
community  
together



# Timeline and highlights





# Vision

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## **A world class disability research and policy hub**

The National Disability Research Partnership will facilitate a collaborative and inclusive disability research program that builds the evidence for successful innovation in policy and practice.

NDRP



# National Disability Research Partnership Principles

## High quality, collaborative research

Drive world-leading research that builds an evidence base

Research driven by a national disability research agenda

Collaborative approach to identifying key questions and conducting research

Australian policy will be informed by research and evidence

## Value the knowledge of people with disability

Research 'by' and 'with' people with disability

Research that addresses the priorities of people with disability as outlined in the national disability research agenda.

Research which specifically addresses people with disability who:

- require support to express their will and preference, and to implement their decisions
- experience intersectional disadvantage

Genuine, paid for, co-design

## Value all forms of knowledge

Valuing knowledge production from many different sources

Accessible knowledge in a range of formats

## Build research capacity

Build a vibrant, connected and thriving disability research ecosystem

Create career pathways and targeted support for researchers with disability

Build capacity of the disability sector to produce and use knowledge

# NDRP: Establishment 2020-2022

## NDRP Working Party

made up of people with disability,  
academics and independent advisers.  
In place until mid-2022 to guide  
deliverables and outreach

## Seed funding

Provided by the Commonwealth  
Government Department of Social  
Services



## Stakeholders

People with disability  
Family members, caregivers, allies or  
supporters  
Researchers  
Disabled people's organisations  
Advocacy groups & consumer bodies  
Peak bodies  
Disability service providers  
Health, housing, education or community  
Business  
Government: Commonwealth, State and  
Territory, NDIA & NDIS Quality and  
Safeguards Commission

NDRP



# Building disability research capacity

- Research project: interviews and focus groups with 42 people, including academics with and without disability, government, advocates, Disabled People's Organisations and service providers
- Feedback on building research capacity in all areas of the system, including universities:
  - Changes to research council funding arrangements
  - Greater investment and funding for disability research
  - Dedicated career development opportunities (secondments, internships, mentoring etc)
  - Reform ethics frameworks and research standards to enable inclusive research
  - Change university systems, structures and processes to enable engagement and employment of people with disability
  - Increase accessibility of research findings



# Enduring NDRP from early 2023

## Key points

- Independent entity
- Governing powers: membership, board of directors and partners
- Government major source of funding

## Major functions

### Advance inclusive research

- All activities underpinned by NDRP Principles
- All research done 'by' and 'with' people with disability
- Influence ARC & NHMRC and other competitive grant schemes

### Fund disability research

- Informed by research agenda
- Open funding rounds
- Commissioned research

### Build research capacity

- People with disability to be involved in research
- Early career researchers
- Increase capacity for disability sector (e.g. services, advocates) to use and undertake research

### Translate knowledge

- Generate innovative and best practice solutions to policy questions
- Improve practice
- Increase uptake of research by disability community

# Governance

## Membership

Open to individuals and organisations, including people with disability, families, advocates or representatives, service providers, researchers, universities and governments.

Annual  
membership fee

**\$100**

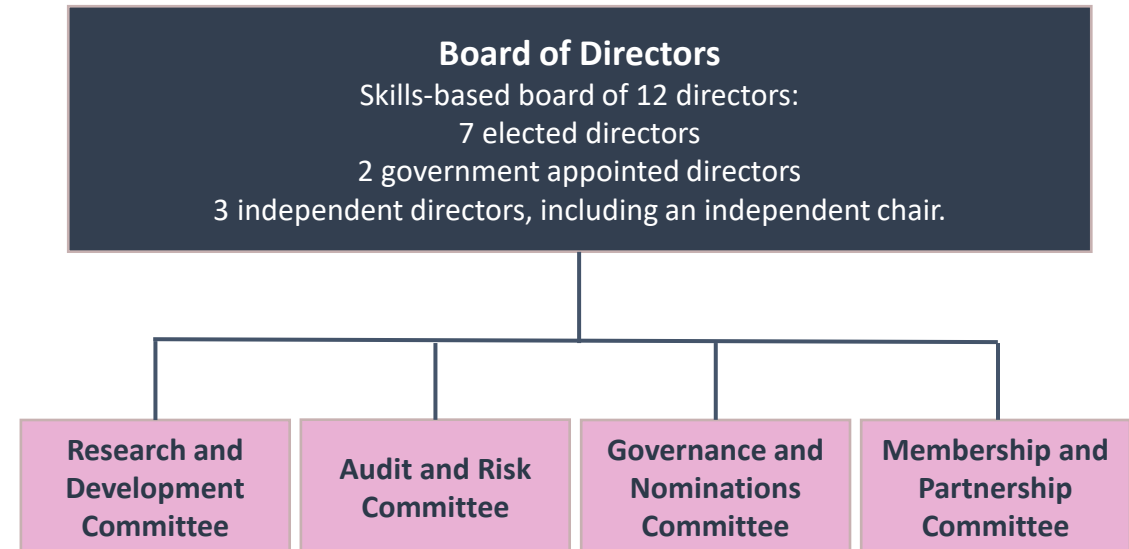
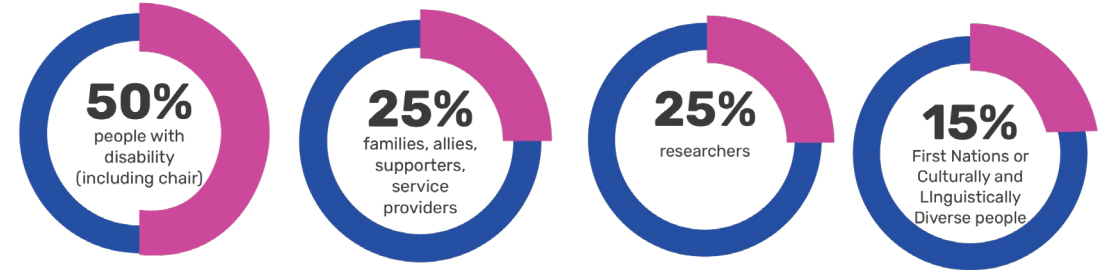
Constitution and  
member charter



Commitment to  
NDRP principles



## Board



# Key messages

- The NDRP and the NDDA are major research opportunities. Both have received bi-partisan support
- NDRP will be open to all universities and researchers
- The projected growth in disability spending by governments likely to lead to more disability research funding through NDRP, as governments seek to optimise policy and practice
- The NDRP seeks to transform disability research by increasing:
  - **Research capacity** in disability research particularly among people with disability
  - **Research funding** for programs and projects in areas people with disability identify as important and which are policy relevant
- Change culture in disability research so research 'by and with people with disability' is the norm
- Universities are clearly central to the NDRP, but they will need to make some changes to enable full participation of people with disability, and to contribute to building research capacity among people with disability and in disability research.



NDRP



# NDRP Working Party

The working party will exist for two years until mid-2022 and will help facilitate the establishment of NDRP.



**Anne Kavanagh**  
Co-Director NDRP  
University of Melbourne



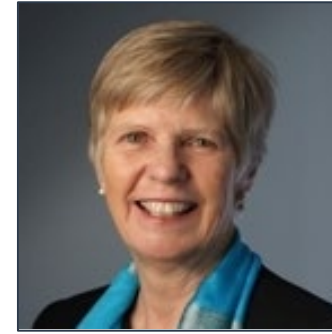
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University of New  
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**Scott Avery**  
Independent  
Adviser



**Elizabeth Kendall**  
Griffith University



**Ian Watt AC**  
Independent Adviser



# Additional information



May 2022

# Pilot research funding round

## Purpose:

- To build evidence for successful innovation in disability policy and practice
- To test and refine NDRP processes, approach and ability to deliver on the vision

## Selection criteria:

1. Research that addresses the priorities of people with disability
2. Research by and with people with disability
3. High quality research
4. Knowledge that is accessible to the community
5. Capacity to undertake research in an area of demonstrated importance to the disability community

## Community of practice:

A community of practice made up of successful research teams will come together to share learnings and improve processes.

**123**  
**proposals**  
**received**



# Pilot research funding round: selected projects

**Bringing It Home: The exploration and co-design of consumer-led methodologies to understand lived experience of home and living within a National Disability Research Partnership**

Monash University,  
SDA Alliance,  
University of Melbourne,  
Social Ventures Australia,  
Griffith University

**Co-designing Resources to Increase Access to Information and Services: Syrian and Iraqi people with disability from refugee backgrounds and service providers.**

Deakin University,  
Settlement Services International,  
NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors,  
Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House)

**Designing a Continuum of Best Practices for the Inclusion of Students with Intellectual Disabilities in Higher Education**

The University of Sydney,  
Centre for Disability Studies,  
Flinders University

**Experiences of police apprehension for psychosocial disability: a co-designed investigation.**

RMIT,  
Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council

**Giving voice to rural and remote First Nations NDIS participants who are Deaf or hard of hearing in the Northern Territory**

University of Melbourne,  
Phoenix Consultancy Pty Ltd,  
Auslan Consultancy Pty Ltd

**Saying who you are: Identifying best practice to support positive identities for LGBTQ people with intellectual disability**

Deakin University,  
Rainbow Rights & Advocacy,  
Inclusion Melbourne

**Stepping out in the world: the new adulthood for Gen Zs with Down syndrome**

University of Queensland

**Supporting the woman, supporting the mother: Examining the interface between the NDIS and family support services for mothers with intellectual disability in New South Wales.**

University of Sydney,  
University of New South Wales,  
FAMS,  
WASH House Inc,  
People with Disability Australia

**The eternal child: When best interests are not in the best interests of young people with disability**

University of New South Wales,  
Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA),  
Inclusion Australia

Find out more at [www.ndrp.org.au/funded-projects](http://www.ndrp.org.au/funded-projects)

# National Disability Research Agenda

A large consortium of researchers from universities and non-government organisations has come together through a tender to the National Disability Research Partnership. The consortium is led by the University of Sydney.



Find out more at [www.ndrp.org.au/mapping-research](http://www.ndrp.org.au/mapping-research)



**APO** ANALYSIS  
& POLICY  
OBSERVATORY

# DISABILITY RESEARCH COLLECTION

## APO Disability Research Collection

[apo.org.au/collection/309093/disability-research](https://apo.org.au/collection/309093/disability-research)

The Collection aims to share evidence and knowledge on a range of topics related to disability. It contains freely available resources from lots of sources.

The NDRP will send regular newsletters with collection highlights. Sign up to the mailing list!

The collection is still being built; please feel free to send any reports or publications you would like to see included to [info@ndrp.org.au](mailto:info@ndrp.org.au)