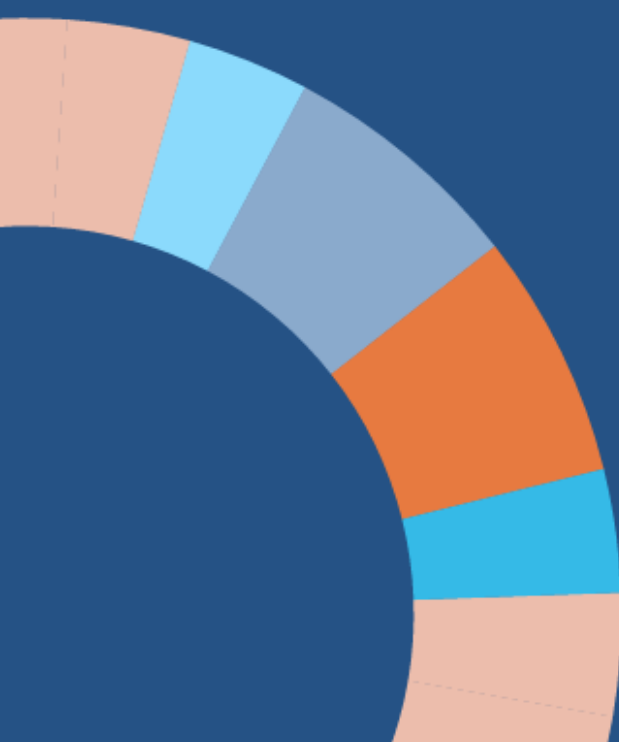


Disability Health Strategy

2024-2025 Progress Report and 2026 Action Plan



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Acknowledgments

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Health Tasmania respectfully acknowledges Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play and pays respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present.

Recognition Statement

Tasmanian Aboriginal people's traditional lifestyle promoted physical and emotional health and wellbeing, centred around Country, Kin, Community and Spirituality. Aboriginal people continue to value the importance of culture, community connection and being on Country as vital components of health and wellness.

Through colonisation, Aboriginal people experienced displacement and disconnection, which has significantly affected their health and wellbeing. We recognise that Aboriginal people are the knowledge holders and provide best practice in promoting health and wellbeing for Aboriginal people. We acknowledge and learn from the ongoing work of Aboriginal organisations in ensuring continued health and wellness. We commit to working in partnership with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities and health leaders, both now and into the future, to improve health and wellbeing.

Nationally, we also acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

are almost twice as likely to be living with disability than non-Aboriginal people¹ and continue to experience inequities in health outcomes and increased difficulty in accessing healthcare.

The Disability Health Strategy aims to ensure that our public health services meet the needs of all Tasmanians with disability, including Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Acknowledgment of People with Disability and Community

The Tasmanian Department of Health acknowledges the lived and living experience of people with disability and their family members, carers and supporters and acknowledge the contribution of people with lived and living experience of disability in developing the Disability Health Strategy and its underpinning action plans. We acknowledge the community that have paved and continue to pave the way to people with disability having their human rights recognised.

1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015. The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2015. Cat. no. IHW 147. Canberra: AIHW.

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Message from the Secretary



I am pleased to present the 2024-2025 Progress Report and the 2026 Action Plan under the

Tasmanian Department of Health's Disability Health Strategy. This document reflects the Department's ongoing commitment to ensuring Tasmania's health services are inclusive, accessible and responsive to the needs of people with disability.

The Progress Report outlines the Department's work to implement the first Action Plan under the Strategy in 2024 and 2025 and improve healthcare for people with disability in Tasmania. Our progress has been shaped by the consultation with the disability community undertaken on the Strategy in 2023, as well as continuing key national disability reforms underway. This includes the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (the Disability Royal Commission) and the reforms arising from the Independent Review into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the NDIS Review).

The Progress Report highlights there are many examples of positive changes across the Department which are helping to improve the delivery of our health services for people with

disability. For example, Oral Health Services Tasmania (OHST) is leading several key initiatives, including the Support Schools Screening Program, and its partnership with Primary Health Tasmania to launch the *How to care for your child's teeth* booklet. This work is supporting improved oral health outcomes by promoting early identification of oral health needs, increasing access to preventive care, and providing clear, practical information to children with disability, their families and carers.

Additionally, as more people are relying on digital technology for accessing health information and health services, the Department has implemented native accessibility support across all our internet and intranet sites. These improvements will make it easier for people with disability to use our websites and access the information and supports they need.

In July 2025, we also launched the new 18-month child health assessment, *Kids Love to Learn*, which gives families another opportunity to receive support at a key stage in their child's language development.

There are also many examples across the Department of our health services working with people with disability to inform the development of policies, strategies, plans and programs that affect their lives. One key example is the development of *The Health Revolution: Tasmania's 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy*. An

exposure draft of the Strategy was released in December 2025, which was informed by targeted co-design with people with disability. These examples are outlined in more detail in the progress report.

While I am proud of the progress we have made to date, I acknowledge that we have more work to do to improve the way we provide health services to people with disability. The 2026 Action Plan included in this document outlines how we will continue to make these improvements.

The 2026 Action Plan includes new actions that respond to priorities raised by the disability community through our original consultation and align with ongoing national and Tasmanian reforms. It also includes several longer-term actions that commenced in 2024-2025. All actions support the five priority areas outlined in the original Strategy.

In developing the 2026 Action Plan, we have prioritised focusing on those actions we believe will ensure the

changes we make are meaningful, achievable, and truly improve people's experience of care.

I also wish to recognise the hard work and commitment of our staff in helping deliver the objectives of the Strategy. Your efforts make a real difference, and I look forward to continuing this progress in 2026, and beyond.

I also thank the Tasmanian disability community for your ongoing engagement and support in delivering the Strategy. We value your partnership and look forward to continuing to work with you throughout 2026 to support a more inclusive, accessible and responsive health system.

Dale Webster
Secretary
Department of Health



Introduction

The Tasmanian Government is committed to creating a more inclusive, responsive and accessible Tasmania for people with disability. A key part of this work is the Department of Health's Disability Health Strategy 2025 (the Strategy), which provides a roadmap for improving the delivery of high quality, accessible health services for all people with disability in Tasmania.

Released in 2025, the Strategy was informed by extensive consultation with people with disability, alongside best-practice approaches and consideration of key state and national disability policy reforms. These include the *Tasmanian Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024*, the findings and recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review, and our commitments under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031.

The Strategy identifies five priority areas for action, which will guide us to improve health service delivery for Tasmanians with disability. These priority areas are:

1. **Quality:** ensuring health services meet the diverse needs of people with disability through best practice approaches.
2. **Accessibility:** supporting a holistic approach to healthcare delivery, addressing physical, communication, and social barriers to access.
3. **Decision making:** empowering people with disability to make informed decisions about their healthcare.
4. **Workforce:** ensuring the health workforce has the awareness and knowledge to provide healthcare that meets the diverse needs of people with disability, and building a health workforce profile which reflects the diversity of Tasmania's population with disability.
5. **Information systems:** enhancing health data relating to people with disability and ensuring accessibility to information.

The Department will report annually on our progress against each Action Plan to support transparency and to keep the community informed about the improvements being made to health services for people with disability.

Additionally, to support further accountability in the future, we are working to establish a new Disability Health Reference Group, comprising representatives from the Tasmanian

disability community. The Reference Group will support the development of future Action Plans and monitor the Department's progress in implementing the Strategy.

Achievements and Progress in 2024-2025

The first Action Plan, covering the 2024–2025 period, was released alongside the Strategy and includes foundational actions to support its successful implementation. It also outlines how the Department will deliver key state and national reform activities.

Achievements under the Strategy to date reflect the Department's strong commitment to addressing the diverse needs of Tasmanians with disability. These achievements demonstrate improvements in the way health services are delivered and how the health workforce supports the disability community.

The Progress Report included in this document outlines the initiatives completed during the initial foundation period and recognises projects that are ongoing and will continue into 2026.

We acknowledge and thank our staff for their dedication and hard work in achieving these important milestones. We also thank the community for their ongoing support and collaboration as we work together to create a truly accessible, inclusive and responsive health system for all Tasmanians, including people with disability.

Looking ahead for 2026

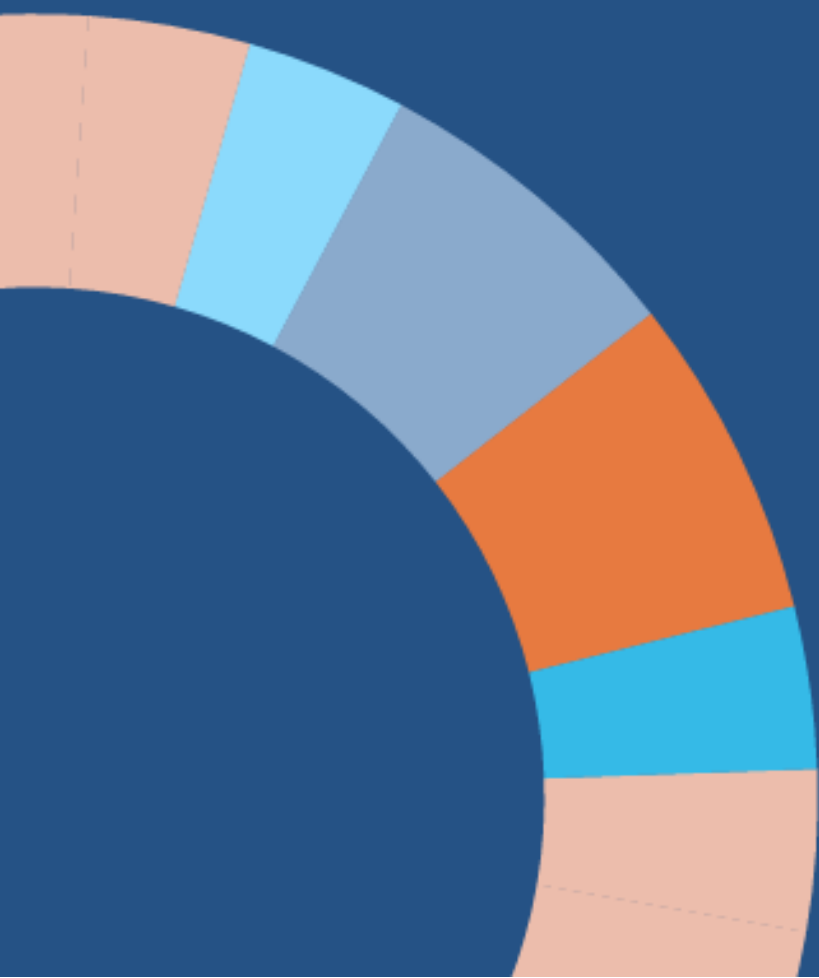
The 2026 Action Plan will build on the success and progress achieved in 2024-2025. This includes strengthening foundational initiatives, continuing to embed inclusive practices across health services and the workforce, and responding to emerging state and national directions that remain under development.

Crucially, we will keep working in partnership with the Tasmanian disability community to inform how actions are implemented and evaluated. This will ensure actions reflect lived experience and lead to practical, lasting improvements.

Tasmanians can stay informed about the progress and implementation of the Strategy through the Department's website, social media channels and annual reports.

Together, we are working to deliver a more inclusive, accessible and responsive health system in Tasmania – one that benefits every Tasmanian.

2024-25 Progress Report



2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Delivered built-in accessibility support across all Department internet and intranet sites to ensure our websites are accessible for everyone.



Launched the 18-month child health assessment called *Kids Love to Learn*, which gives families another opportunity to receive support at a key stage in their child's language development.



Introduced the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status – Revised to support Child and Family Health Nurses to identify developmental concerns early and respond appropriately.



Partnered with Primary Health Tasmania to develop the *How to care for your child's teeth* booklet, providing practical oral health guidance for parents and carers of children with additional needs.



Partnered with JobAccess (JobAbility) to review the Department's recruitment practices and identify opportunities to increase the employment of people with disability.



Progressing a staged review of drop-off zones, disability parking bays and taxi areas to improve access for people with disability.



Used targeted co-design with people with disability to develop the exposure draft for *The Health Revolution: Tasmania's 20-year Preventive Health Strategy*.

2024-2025 CASE STUDIES

How to care for your child's teeth booklet

Good oral health is an important part of every child's overall health. However, children with disability can be at higher risk of oral health issues and dental problems.

To support parents and carers in caring for the oral health of children with disability, Oral Health Services Tasmania has worked with Primary Health Tasmania to rebrand an existing resource to the Tasmanian context, with permission from NSW Health.

The booklet provides simple, practical advice for parents and carers and will be available through general practitioners and school nurses.

Primary Health Tasmania is promoting the resource to GPs and practice nurses, and it is also being shared through the School Nurse Program and carer organisations across Tasmania.

Oral Health Services Tasmania

How to care for your child's teeth

A guide for parents and carers of children with disability





Introduction of the New *Kids Love to Learn* check

Introduced by the Department in July 2025, the *Kids Love to Learn* assessment is a 60-minute appointment available to every child at the age of 18 months, delivered by child health nurses within the Child Health and Parenting Services (CHaPS) from 70 community locations across the State.

The new *Kids Love to Learn* assessment focuses on literacy development through the lens of the child and caregiver relationship, in recognition of the important role parents and carers play as their child's first teacher.

The 18-month Child Health Assessment is in addition to the existing universal assessments offered by CHaPS at the ages of two weeks, four weeks, eight weeks, six months, 12 months, two years and four years.

As with every CHaPS appointment, the 18-month assessment includes growth and developmental screening, and an opportunity to discuss any additional parental concerns, along with the central focus on literacy development.



PROGRESS AGAINST 2024-2025 ACTION PLAN

The first Action Plan set out 38 foundational actions for the Department to deliver across the five priority areas of the Strategy. The Department’s progress against each of these actions is outlined below.



PRIORITY AREA ONE: QUALITY

Intent: Health services meet the diverse needs of people with disability through best practice approaches.

The following actions have been completed.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Continue to support people with complex needs, including those	Completed	The Department is continuing to support people with complex needs through roles such as Complex Care Coordinators, the

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
with disability, through the Complex Care Coordinators, navigators, or similar roles at each main hospital site.		<p>Integrated Discharge Team, and Discharge Planners. A mix of these roles is available across the Department's main hospital sites.</p> <p>This action is considered complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department's core business.</p>
As part of the development of the 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy, consult with and consider the preventive health needs of people with disability to inform the development of the strategy.	Completed	<p>The Department undertook targeted and inclusive engagement to ensure the preventive health needs of people with disability are reflected in <i>The Health Revolution: Tasmania's 20-year Preventive Health Strategy</i> (The Health Revolution Strategy). The exposure draft for this Strategy was released for public consultation in December 2025.</p> <p>As part of consultation to develop the exposure draft for The Health Revolution Strategy, the Department undertook targeted co-design with people with disability. This included developing Easy Read consultation materials in liaison with Speak Out Advocacy, mapping existing disability-related consultations to avoid duplication and build on existing insights, and seeking guidance from the Tasmanian Disability Commissioner and peak disability organisations to ensure inclusive and safe engagement.</p> <p>Expressions of interest were coordinated through community organisations to invite people with disability to a co-design workshop, which informed design of tailored consultation sessions. Workshops were held across Tasmania with appropriate supports and accessible materials provided.</p> <p>The Department will use the key themes raised by people with disability during the consultation on The Health Revolution Strategy to shape other health policies,</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
		strategies, and programs, ensuring they better meet the needs of all Tasmanians
Continue to explore the ongoing suitability of the current developmental screening tool used by the Child Health and Parenting Service (the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status), explore possible alternatives to this tool, and make recommendations around the most appropriate developmental screening tool for ongoing use.	Completed	The Department completed a comprehensive review of developmental screening tools and identified the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status – Revised (PEDS-R) as the preferred option for clinical practice and education. As a result, the Department transitioned from the current PEDS tool to PEDS-R on 1 January 2026. Child and Family Health Nurses are now using PEDS-R in partnership with parents to actively identify and respond to developmental concerns.
Work with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to introduce child health assessments for 18-month old children. These checks will provide an additional connection point with families during a crucial stage for children's language development. This action relates to Priority Recommendation five from the Department of Premier and Cabinet's <i>Lifting Literacy Implementation Plan 2024–2026</i> .	Completed	On 1 July 2025, the Department launched the 18-month child health assessment called <i>Kids Love to Learn</i> . This 60-minute assessment is available to every child at the age of 18 months, and is delivered by child health nurses from 70 community locations across the State. The assessment gives Tasmanian parents and caregivers tools and skills to support their children's literacy development at home. From 1 July to 26 November 2025, 648 <i>Kids Love to Learn</i> assessments were completed, and a further 455 future bookings made.
Continue the operation of the Integrated	Complete	The Integrated Discharge Team (IDT) continues to work with adult clients, clinical

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Discharge Team, which serves as the central contact for disability service providers when patients with disability are admitted or at risk of hospital admission.		<p>teams, and service providers to coordinate disability support within hospitals and on discharge. Due to its success, the IDT is now a permanent component of the Integrated Operations Centre in the South.</p> <p>This action is considered complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department's core business.</p>
Ensure the needs of vulnerable groups, including people with disability, are appropriately considered and their needs reflected in our strategic and service planning activities.	Complete	<p>As part of its commitment to inclusive, equitable, and person-centred healthcare, the Department has embedded inclusive planning principles across several initiatives, including the Long-Term Plan for Healthcare in Tasmania 2024, the Tasmanian Cardiac Strategy, and through the development of the new Tasmanian Primary Healthcare Strategy and Action Plan. This will ensure the needs of priority population groups, including people with disability, are reflected in strategic and service planning initiatives.</p> <p>A Health Planning Guideline is also being developed to provide a consistent framework for strategic and service planning activities by incorporating diverse needs, including people with disability. This will be supported by engagement with people with lived experience, inclusive co-design, data-driven insights, and cross-sector collaboration.</p> <p>This action has been marked as complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department's core business.</p>

The following actions are underway and will continue to be progressed as part of the 2026 Action Plan. An update on activities completed throughout 2024-2025 is provided below.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Continue the work	In	Work is underway to ensure Tasmania's

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>under <i>Rethink 2020: A State Plan for Mental Health in Tasmania 2020–2025</i>, the <i>Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023–2027</i> and the <i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2024–2029</i> to create a contemporary, integrated health system that is accessible to all Tasmanians, including individuals with disability.</p>	<p>progress</p>	<p>future mental health, drug strategy and suicide prevention is accessible to people with disability, through inclusive planning, co-design and targeted workforce development.</p> <p>Under <i>Rethink 2020: A State Plan for Mental Health in Tasmania 2020–2025</i> (Rethink 2020), the Department has contributed to the national analysis of unmet need for people with complex mental illness outside of the NDIS, as outlined in the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.</p> <p>The Department is also participating in the National Psychosocial Project Group, which is developing recommendations to better meet psychosocial support needs in the next version of the National Agreement. This work is expected to continue in 2026.</p> <p>With Rethink 2020 having concluded in June 2025, the Department is now developing a new statewide mental health strategy. This new strategy will consider the diverse needs of people with disability.</p> <p>Through the <i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2024-2029</i> (Tasmanian Drug Strategy), the Department is working to improve equitable access to evidence-based treatment options. This includes ensuring services are responsive to the needs of Tasmanians and support the concurrent treatment of co-occurring conditions such as mental ill-health, neurodiversity, and disability.</p>
<p>Ensure that the needs of individuals with disability are considered in the development of the associated implementation plans</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Planning for Tasmania’s next mental health strategy has commenced, following the conclusion of Rethink 2020 in June 2025. The new strategy is being developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, with consultation to include the broader</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>for Rethink 2020, the <i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2024-2029</i>, and the <i>Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023–2027</i>.</p>		<p>Tasmanian community and representation from the disability sector. This approach will help ensure the needs of people with disability are reflected in the new strategy.</p> <p>Under the <i>Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023–2027</i>, the Department is continuing to progress co-design activities, as well as education and training across the health workforce to strengthen staff capability in engaging effectively with specific population groups, including people with disability. These activities are supporting people with disability by deepening workforce understanding of their needs, increasing staff confidence to provide inclusive and responsive services, and ensuring that suicide prevention approaches are accessible and appropriate.</p>
<p>Explore and plan for the use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Talking about Raising Aboriginal Kids tool for all Tasmanian Aboriginal children up to five years of age coming into out-of-home care. This action relates to recommendation 9.2 of the Disability Royal Commission.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Department is working with the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet to identify the most efficient pathway to implement the Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Talking about Raising Aboriginal Kids tool (ASQ-TRAK), which will continue in 2026.</p> <p>ASQ-TRAK is a culturally adapted developmental screening tool designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Implementing this tool will ensure all Aboriginal children up to five years of age coming into out-of-home care are appropriately screened and supported.</p>
<p>Continue participating in whole of government activities to support the implementation of key national disability reform in Tasmania. This includes the Disability Royal Commission, the</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Department has worked throughout 2025 to contribute to a range of whole of government initiatives to advance the implementation of key national disability reforms in Tasmania. This includes providing input into the Disability Royal Commission Progress Report 2025 and supporting the design of Foundational</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>NDIS Review and the development of Foundational Supports.</p>		<p>Supports in Tasmania, including the development of the Thriving Kids Program following the Australian Government's announcement in August 2025.</p> <p>This work will remain ongoing in 2026.</p>
<p>Develop and release the <i>Tasmanian Strategy for Improving Access to Healthcare Services for Children and Young People</i>, which will consider how the Department of Health can better meet the health needs of neurodivergent children.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Work on the <i>Tasmanian Strategy for Improving Access to Healthcare Services for Children and Young People</i> is progressing well.</p> <p>Data analysis and demand forecasting have been completed, and a statewide stakeholder workshop was held to discuss key themes and potential actions for inclusion in the Strategy.</p> <p>An exposure draft is now being finalised and is expected to be released for public consultation shortly.</p>
<p>Explore collaborative care approaches to support joint case coordination and navigation for vulnerable patients/patients with additional needs, receiving services across the Department of Health and Tasmanian Health Service.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Department is continuing to develop collaborative care approaches that support joint case coordination and navigation. For example, fortnightly long-stay reviews have been introduced for patients in Older Persons Acute Care and Geriatric Evaluation and Management units. These reviews include representatives from disability services and help streamline discharge.</p> <p>This work will continue in 2026.</p>
<p>Deliver a new GP specialist service for children with ADHD, ensuring families can access a GP with specific interest sooner.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>In June 2025, the Tasmanian Government committed \$3 million over three years to address growing demand for paediatric ADHD services. This funding is being used to support a new statewide service model that includes General Practitioners (GPs) with a Special Interest. The model is designed to improve access for families and support other GPs.</p> <p>The new model aims to reduce long</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
		<p>waiting lists for neurodevelopmental assessments and focuses on shared, collaborative care with community GPs and professionals from the Department of Education, Children and Young People.</p> <p>Building on the success of Kids Care Clinics launched in 2023, the Department has also piloted parent and school education sessions on ADHD in rural communities.</p> <p>New referral criteria are being implemented to improve the quality of data and more accurately track the impact of new services on waiting lists while also improving the quality of referrals to ensure children are referred to the most appropriate service for their needs.</p> <p>The Department is finalising a process to enable Tasmanian GPs to diagnose, treat, and manage ADHD for both children and adults. This will include training and supervision in partnership with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, helping free up paediatricians and psychiatrists so children can access specialist care sooner.</p> <p>The Department is also contributing to national work through the Health Ministers' Meeting to harmonise ADHD care and improve access to diagnosis and prescribing across Australia.</p> <p>This work will continue in 2026.</p>



PRIORITY AREA TWO: ACCESSIBILITY

Intent: Support a holistic approach to healthcare delivery and provide reasonable adjustments to address barriers to access.

The following actions have been completed.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Expand the composition of reference groups established as part of the implementation of major infrastructure projects to include representation of people with disability to capture	Complete	The Department is incorporating a broad range of perspectives into major infrastructure projects by engaging health-focused consumer groups and community representatives, including people with lived experience of disability and carers. Recent consultations have included engagement with:

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>a spectrum of views to achieve the best outcomes for design.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Tasmania • Mental Health Families and Friends • Palliative Care Tasmania • Cornerstone Youth Services (Hesburgh Launceston) <p>This approach is intended to support more inclusive design and helps ensure that facilities meet the needs of people with disability and the broader community.</p> <p>This action has been marked as complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department's core business.</p>
<p>Consider the needs of people with disability when establishing new population screening and cancer prevention sites and facilities – including the new BreastScreen Tasmania clinic now opened in Rosny.</p>	Complete	<p>The Department is ensuring all new population screening and cancer prevention sites are accessible and designed to meet the needs of people with disability. New sites and facilities are being planned with accessibility at the forefront, including features such as wheelchair-friendly entrances, nearby accessible parking, and clear, welcoming signage to help everyone feel comfortable and supported.</p> <p>Construction is currently underway on the new Public Diagnostic Breast Care Centre at the Royal Hobart Hospital's Liverpool Clinics. The design and fit-out of this facility will reflect the needs of people with disability and comply with the BreastScreen Australia National Accreditation Standards, which require services to consider accessibility in their planning and operation. The Centre's design has also been informed by extensive community consultation to ensure it meets the needs and expectations of people with disability.</p> <p>This action has been marked as complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
		in the Department’s core business.
<p>Support the ongoing delivery of the Support Schools Screening Program, to ensure that children with special needs can have their oral health assessed in an environment they are comfortable and familiar with.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>OHST continues to deliver and improve the Support School Screening Program through updated resources, co-design work, and new research partnerships. This work will continue throughout 2026.</p> <p>OHST’s Support School Screening Program is delivered annually, with visits scheduled between September and October of each year. During this period, comprehensive screening activities are delivered across all four support schools in Tasmania. These visits are planned in collaboration with School Health Nurses to support student access and participation.</p> <p>Program resources are currently being reviewed and updated through a co-design process with Support School staff and consumers. This work will ensure students, families, and school communities have clear, practical, and accessible information about the screening program and treatment environment.</p> <p>OHST is also sponsoring a research project led by La Trobe University, in partnership with School Health Nurses. The project is focused on designing and developing resources that improve understanding of oral health and help promote better oral health practices within the support school community.</p> <p>This action has been marked as complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department’s core business.</p>

The following actions are underway and will continue to be progressed as part of the 2026 Action Plan. An update on activities completed throughout 2024-2025 is provided below.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>Through the <i>Healthy Tasmania Five-Year Strategic Plan 2022–2026</i>, continue to advocate and work across sectors to ensure that Tasmanian neighbourhoods are liveable, supportive of physical activity and accessible to all people, including people with disability.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Department is advancing several initiatives under the <i>Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan 2022–2026</i> (Healthy Tasmania) to promote liveable, active and accessible neighbourhoods for all Tasmanians, including people with disability.</p> <p>For example, under Healthy Tasmania, the Department awarded a Step Forward grant to DIGnity Supported Community Gardening, which is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve wellbeing and quality of life by providing therapeutic and supported community gardening sessions for people with physical or mental disability. In 2025, DIGnity ran ten therapeutic horticulture sessions in two community gardens in South East Tasmania, Nubeena and Dodges Ferry.</p> <p>Additionally, ParaQuad Tasmania used a Step Forward grant to provide sport and recreational opportunities for young people with physical disability. The sporting and recreational activities were run by ParaQuad’s Kids Ability Club program across the State, and included wheelchair sports, balloon soccer, para-mini golf, frame running, frisbee golf, wheelchair slalom and boccia.</p>
<p>As part of the implementation of projects identified in the Department of Health masterplan, undertake a staged review of drop-off zones, disability parking bays and taxi infrastructure to identify opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>This review is currently underway and remains an ongoing focus for the Department.</p> <p>Additionally, during the design phase of departmental infrastructure projects, the Department is ensuring a strong focus on improving visitor drop off zones, maintaining or increasing the number of disability parking spaces, and enhancing access to public transport. These improvements aim to benefit all visitors to a precinct, including people with disability.</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
		<p>Some examples from current projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Hobart Hospital Emergency Department expansion: This project will provide an additional disability parking space. • St John’s Park new short stay mental health facility and Eating Disorders Treatment Centre: The development will include dedicated drop off zones and two dedicated disability parking spaces. • Launceston General Hospital multi storey carpark: The new carpark will include an additional 10 disability parking spaces. • North-West Regional Hospital Emergency Department expansion: This project will provide an additional drop off point to support easier access.
<p>In alignment with broader <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (CTH)</i> compliance requirements, ensure considerations of low sensory areas are included in Department of Health design briefs as part of Department of Health masterplanning.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>All new Department infrastructure projects are being designed with the current and future needs of the community in mind, in line with our guiding masterplanning principles. This includes creating facilities that support the diverse needs of staff, patients and visitors, such as incorporating low-sensory spaces to improve comfort and accessibility.</p> <p>Universal design principles and disability-legislative requirements are being built into all Department infrastructure projects from the outset through Functional Design Briefs developed under Infrastructure’s Project Management Framework. Features include wide-bay parking, safe pedestrian access, and mobility-friendly entries. Precinct zoning and child-focused spaces also support developmental and sensory needs in line with clinical care standards.</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
		<p>Key examples from current projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Hobart Hospital Emergency Department Expansion: The design includes a dedicated area for mental health consumers and low-sensory waiting areas for all patients. • St John's Park Short Stay and Tasmanian Eating Disorders Treatment Centre: The design actively minimises overwhelming sensory input. Quiet spaces and sensory rooms are incorporated to support patients who benefit from low-stimulus environments. • Launceston General Hospital (LGH) Emergency Department Expansion: The project will deliver separate waiting areas tailored for people experiencing acute psychological distress. • LGH Northern Mental Health Precinct: The design incorporates landscaped outdoor areas and internal spaces with home-like environments to create a calming, therapeutic atmosphere. <p>This work will continue throughout 2026 as the Department's infrastructure projects progress.</p>
<p>Enhance the accessibility of BreastScreen Tasmania services across the State, by replacing the current mobile screening unit with a new vehicle that better supports the accessibility of the service to people with disability.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Department is currently procuring a new BreastScreen Tasmania mobile screening unit, which will include a ramp – an important upgrade from the previous unit. The addition of a ramp will make it easier for people with disability (and anyone who finds stairs difficult) to access screening services.</p> <p>By incorporating accessibility features from the outset, the Department is helping ensure more Tasmanians can take part in regular breast screening.</p>
<p>Support the ongoing delivery of the</p>	<p>In</p>	<p>OHST's Conscious Sedation Pilot Program, delivered through the Southern</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>Conscious Sedation Program, including expansion of the program to the greater north, to ensure that people with special needs are able to more easily access dental care in community settings across Tasmania.</p>	<p>progress</p>	<p>Dental Centre in New Town, is improving access to dental care in community settings. Since 2022, the Pilot Program has enabled Southern patients with additional needs to receive safe and appropriate dental treatment closer to home.</p> <p>Building on the success of the Pilot Program in the South, planning has now commenced to expand the program to Northern and North West Tasmania. This expansion will further increase access to dental care for patients with additional needs living in these regions.</p> <p>These activities will continue throughout 2026.</p>



PRIORITY AREA THREE: DECISION MAKING

Intent: Empower people with disability to make informed decisions about their healthcare.

The following actions have been completed.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Through the <i>Healthy Tasmania Five-Year</i>	Completed	The Department continues to apply an equity lens across all Healthy Tasmania

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p><i>Strategic Plan 2022–2026</i>, continue to plan an equity lens across all Healthy Tasmania policies and services to ensure we consider the specific needs of priority populations (including people with disability) and that our actions have no adverse impacts.</p>		<p>policies and services to ensure the specific needs of priority populations, including people with disability, are actively considered.</p> <p>The Department is also embedding an equity lens in The Health Revolution Strategy, to ensure this initiative supports fair and equitable health outcomes for all Tasmanians.</p> <p>This action has been marked as complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department’s core business.</p>
<p>Continue to deliver the Department of Health’s Health Literacy Action Plan, which focusses on increasing the health literacy of all Tasmanians (including people with disability) to increase their control over their own health and to achieve better health outcomes.</p>	Completed	<p>Under the <i>Health Literacy Action Plan 2019-24</i>, the Department has worked to improve health literacy across the Tasmanian community, build a health literate workforce, and strengthen partnerships to support better health outcomes. A key example of this is the Department’s collaboration with Primary Health Tasmania to fund the Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS), the peak body for the community services industry, to raise health literacy awareness.</p> <p>In 2023, the Department engaged the University of Tasmania to review the <i>Health Literacy Action Plan 2019-24</i>. The final report from the Review, which was publicly released in August 2024, found that significant learning had occurred, and Tasmanians now have a greater understanding of health literacy as both a personal skill and an organisational responsibility within health care.</p> <p>The Department is developing the next iteration of the Health Literacy Action Plan, as the previous plan concluded at the end of 2024. It is intended that the next Action Plan will build on the progress made under the previous Action Plan to improve the health literacy of all Tasmanians, including</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
		<p>those with disability. This work will support people with disability to better understand health information, make informed decisions, and have greater control over their own health.</p> <p>This action has been marked as ‘complete’ as the previous <i>Health Literacy Action Plan 2019-24</i> has concluded. However, the Department will continue to report on health literacy under the Disability Health Strategy through new actions in future action plans that relate to the next Health Literacy Action Plan.</p>

The following actions are underway and will continue to be progressed as part of the 2026 Action Plan. An update on activities completed throughout 2024-2025 is provided below.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>Explore opportunities to improve engagement with people with disability and disability stakeholders, including opportunities to enhance disability representation on the Department’s Consumer Community Engagement Councils.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>In July 2025, the Department finalised <i>Better Together: A Framework for Tasmanian Health Service Staff on Consumer Engagement</i>, which provides a clear structure to support ongoing and meaningful engagement between consumers and staff. The Framework identifies several strategies to ensure people with disability, and the disability community more broadly, can participate fully in consumer engagement.</p> <p>The Department is developing an action plan to support the implementation of the Framework and ensure its strategies for engaging people with disability are embedded across services. This work will continue in 2026.</p>
<p>Embed a focus on disability inclusion and awareness into key leadership and governance</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Department is continuing to explore ways to embed disability inclusion and awareness into all levels of leadership and governance throughout the agency, so it becomes a core part of our organisational</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
approaches.		<p>culture.</p> <p>Activities currently being considered include incorporating disability inclusion into leadership frameworks, strengthening governance processes so disability impacts are routinely considered, ensuring lived-experience voices are reflected in key departmental decision making forums, and providing practical training to help leaders build their confidence and capability in disability inclusion. This work will continue in 2026.</p>
Add disability inclusion as a regular item on key leadership and governance meeting agendas.	In progress	<p>The Department has established the Disability Health Steering Committee, an internal committee that brings together senior leaders from across the Department to provide oversight and support for coordinated, integrated, whole-of-agency responses to the wide range of disability reform initiatives currently underway.</p>
<p>Establish a governance group, that includes members of the Tasmanian disability community, to oversee the development of the Strategy's action plans, and monitor and report on the implementation of the Strategy. This group will also support the Department of Health to meet requirements under the <i>Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024</i>. The Department will consult with this group when developing or reviewing any policy,</p>	In progress	<p>The Department is currently consulting with key disability stakeholders to identify the best approach for establishing a new Disability Health Reference Group and to support people with disability to participate on the group.</p> <p>The Reference Group is expected to be formally established by mid-2026.</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public.		



PRIORITY AREA FOUR: WORKFORCE

Intent: Ensure our health workforce has the knowledge to provide healthcare that meets the diverse needs of people with disability, and build a health workforce profile which reflects the diversity of our population with disability.

The following actions have been completed.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Partner with Primary Health Tasmania to evaluate the Primary Care Enhancement Program (PCEP) to support broad rollout of PCEP interstate and nationally.	Complete	In August 2025, OHST and Primary Health Tasmania released the <i>How to care for your child's teeth</i> booklet. This resource is designed for parents and carers of children with additional needs and offers clear, practical tips to support daily oral care. It builds on the success of 2024's adult-focused <i>How to brush someone else's teeth</i> guide. Copies are available through GPs and School Health Nurses.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>Through the Healthy Tasmania Five-Year Strategic Plan 2022–2026, provide leadership, resources, training and support to ensure that our health and community services are delivered in ways that are culturally safe and inclusive for people with disability (as well as other priority population groups).</p>	Complete	<p>The Department continues to provide a range of online learning resources, available on the Tasmanian Health Education Online portal, to support our workforce to deliver culturally safe and inclusive services for priority population groups.</p> <p>One key resource is the Disability Confident Workforce Training, which contains information about disability, communication and key concepts, and creating enabling environments</p> <p>This action has been marked as complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department’s core business.</p>
<p>Continue using the One Health Culture Communication Hub to foster staff awareness of days of significance for the disability community (such as the United Nations International Day of People with Disability) and continue to produce internal communications which reflect the diversity of the Department of Health.</p>	Complete	<p>The Department continues to use the One Health Culture Communication Hub (OHCCH) to promote inclusivity and raise staff awareness of significant dates for the disability community. In 2024-25, this included events such as National Carers Week, the International Day of People with Disability, and Neurodiversity Celebration Week.</p> <p>In August 2025, the Department released a suite of Workplace Adjustments resources, including an e-learning module, intranet page, policy, agreement template and fact sheet, supporting staff to create accessible and inclusive workplaces.</p> <p>This action has been marked as complete, as it is now an ongoing activity embedded in the Department’s core business.</p>
<p>Undertake a review of the Department of Health’s recruitment practices through a partnership with Job Access (Jobability), and</p>	Complete	<p>The review of the Department’s recruitment practices, led by Job Access, was completed in December 2024. The review resulted in a report with 56 recommendations, many of which have been completed.</p>

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
use the findings of this review to increase the employment of people with disability.		<p>Additionally, Job Access has delivered several initiatives across the Department, including disability awareness training which was facilitated twice in 2024.</p> <p>Other initiatives delivered by Job Access include a Disability Employment Services information session, provision of resources and templates, and support to develop and implement sustainable, best-practice policies.</p>

The following actions are underway and will continue to be progressed as part of the 2026 Action Plan. An update on activities completed throughout 2024-2025 is provided below.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Support the ongoing development of Oral Health Coaches (dental assistants with extended scope) who will be able to work with priority patient groups, such as people with intellectual disability and their families/carers in providing education and guidance on their oral health needs. This may include hygiene and brushing support, and the application of fluoride varnish. This action aligns with the <i>National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability</i> .	In progress	<p>OHST is partnering with TasTAFE to develop a nationally recognised Oral Health Skill Set. This program will train Dental Assistants to apply fluoride varnish and deliver practical oral health education to priority groups, including people with additional needs.</p> <p>A Project Steering Committee has been established to guide the project and is currently designing the Program Service Model, which will outline how the program will reach key population groups, including patients with additional needs.</p> <p>In addition, through OHST's sponsorship of La Trobe University's research project, La Trobe will create a resource to support a care pathway delivered by Oral Health Coaches, specifically tailored for patients with additional needs.</p>
Establish a program (e.g. intranet page or e-learning) of disability	In progress	The Department is currently scoping the development of a disability awareness program. Upcoming activities include

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>awareness and information sessions for Department of Health and Tasmanian Health Service Clinical Staff, to provide these staff with an understanding of the experiences people with disability might have when engaging with Tasmania's public health services, and to strengthen staff awareness of the health needs of people with disability, and the role of their carers, in accessing healthcare. This action will build on the Department's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Framework, and be led through the One Health Culture program.</p>		<p>consulting with the Tasmanian disability community and creating practical strategies for use in clinical settings.</p> <p>The program will also feature case studies and lived experience stories to ensure it reflects real-world perspectives and supports meaningful learning.</p> <p>This work will continue in 2026.</p>



PRIORITY AREA FIVE: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Intent: Improve health data relating to people with disability and ensure accessibility to information.

The following actions have been completed.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Finalise the Department of Health’s <i>Business System Owner Policy</i> to embed a requirement to consider Web Content Accessibility Guidelines accessibility standards when procuring and evaluating new information systems to be used across the Department of Health and Tasmanian Health Service.	Complete	The Department’s <i>Digital Health and ICT Investment and Procurement Policy</i> was finalised in August 2025. The Policy includes a requirement to consider Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) accessibility standards when procuring and evaluating new information systems used across the Department of Health and the Tasmanian Health Service.

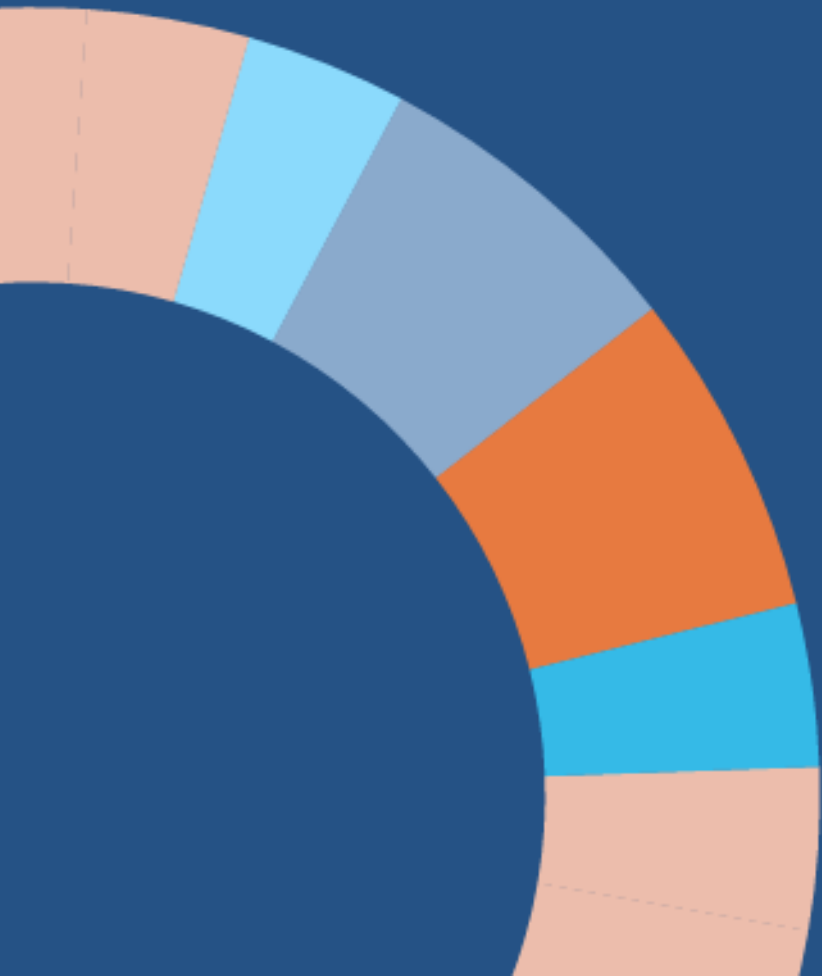
Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Deliver native support for accessibility across all Department of Health internet and intranet sites, to ensure each of our websites (both external and internal) are accessible.	Complete	This action has now been completed. Native support is available on DoH's Intranet and Internet platforms. This will help ensure that all current and future websites meet accessibility standards, support inclusive digital experiences, and remain compliant with best-practice accessibility requirements.

The following actions are underway and will continue to be progressed as part of the 2026 Action Plan. An update on activities completed throughout 2024-2025 is provided below.

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
Review hospital patient forms, information and other materials to support implementation of information for patients in available and accessible, multiple formats (including plain/easy English and options for people with vision impairment).	In progress	The Department continues to review patient forms, information and other materials to ensure accessibility and alignment to broader Tasmanian Health Service resources. This work will continue in 2026.
Develop a mechanism to capture, report and respond to disability-related feedback and complaints.	In progress	The Department is currently consulting with key stakeholders to design a dedicated case management system. This system will include functionality to capture disability-related matters, ensuring these issues are properly recorded and addressed.
Explore implementation options to improve information sharing across the Department of Health and Tasmanian Health Service to support smoother patient experiences.	New Direction	The Department has updated the scope of this action to align with the new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system in development, which is part of the Department's \$476 million Digital Health Transformation Strategy. Records on the EMR will be securely available to patients and health care providers in the community, including GPs, staff in aged care facilities, staff in hospitals and in other

Action	Status	2024-25 Progress update
<p>This includes scoping opportunities to expand or augment the use of pre-op “About Me” form to all areas of the Department of Health and Tasmanian Health Service, including planned procedures, Emergency Department, general admissions, and community health and mental health services.</p>		<p>health services delivered by the Department. This will make it easier to share accurate, up-to-date information, improve care coordination, and support better health outcomes for Tasmanians, including people with disability.</p> <p>The Department is also working to expand the use of the “About Me” form across Tasmania’s health system. In December 2025, select wards at the Royal Hobart Hospital commenced a six-month trial of the new ‘About Me folder’ supported by the Aged Services Team. This bedside resource is designed to help staff deliver more patient-centred care for people living with dementia or experiencing delirium. Each folder includes information about diversional activities, a place to record responses to activities, equipment required and key care strategies for behaviour management, making it easier for staff to understand and support individual needs.</p> <p>A statewide Neurodiversity Support Plan is also being developed, which will include pictorial procedure sheets using social stories. Once the plan is in place, a Clinical Alert will be added to the current Digital Medical Record, so clinicians can easily see and access this information whenever neurodiverse children interact with Tasmanian Health Service services.</p>

2026 Action Plan



NEW 2026 ACTION PLAN

To build on our progress under the 2024-2025 Action Plan under the Strategy, the Department has developed a new Action Plan for the delivery in 2026. This Action Plan includes both continuing foundational actions from 2024-2025 as well as new and targeted initiatives designed to further enhance the delivery of high quality, accessible health services for all people with disability in Tasmania.

Below are the actions we will take in 2026 for each priority area of the Strategy.



PRIORITY AREA ONE: QUALITY

Intent: Ensure our health services meet the diverse needs of people with disability through best practice approaches.

Action	
1.1	Continue the work under the <i>Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023–2027</i> and the <i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2024–2029</i> to create a contemporary, integrated health system that is accessible to all Tasmanians, including individuals with disability.
1.2	Ensure that the needs of individuals with disability are considered in the development of the associated implementation plans for the <i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2024–2029</i> and the <i>Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023–2027</i> .
1.3	Explore and plan for the use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Talking about Raising Aboriginal Kids tool for all Tasmanian Aboriginal children up to five years of age coming into out-of-home care. This action relates to recommendation 9.2 of the Disability Royal Commission.
1.4	Continue participating in whole of government activities to support the implementation of key national disability reform in Tasmania. This includes the Disability Royal Commission, the NDIS Review and the development of Foundational Supports and Thriving Kids.
1.5	Explore collaborative care approaches to support joint case coordination and navigation for vulnerable patients/patients with additional needs, receiving services across the Department of Health and Tasmanian Health Service.
1.6	Deliver a new GP specialist service for children with ADHD, ensuring families can access a GP with specific interest sooner.
1.7	Embed a focus on disability inclusion into clinical and policy governance to ensure the Department's systems, standards, and processes best support the

Action	
	delivery of safe, high-quality, person-centred health care for people with disability.
1.8	Consider the application of outcomes in the Tasmanian context from the Commonwealth-led Disability Health Navigation Scoping Project, once released.
1.9	Review how people with cognitive disability in Tasmania access specialised health and mental health services and consider options for improving access to these services. This aligns with recommendation 6.33 from the Disability Royal Commission.
1.10	Continue to work with the Tasmanian Department of Justice and Department for Education, Children and Young People to explore options to develop policies and practices on screening, identifying and diagnosing disability in custody. This will include considering the alignment of practices with national guidelines and policies. This aligns with Recommendations 8.14 and 8.15 from the Disability Royal Commission.
1.11	Work with the Tasmanian Department of Justice and the Department for Education, Children and Young People to explore how cultural safety supports for people with disability intersects with Closing the Gap and Commission of Inquiry recommendations and projects. This work will include considering how existing supports delivered by First Nations organisations for people in custody can be strengthened to better meet the needs of First Nations people with disability in custodial settings. This action aligns with Recommendation 8.16 from the Disability Royal Commission.
1.12	As part of the development of Tasmania's next mental health strategy, consult with and consider the needs of people with both mental ill-health and disability, including access to and design of mental health services.
1.13	Develop and release the <i>Tasmanian Strategy for Improving Access to Healthcare Services for Children and Young People</i> , which will consider how the Department of Health can better meet the health needs of neurodivergent children.



PRIORITY AREA TWO: ACCESSIBILITY

Intent: Support a holistic approach to healthcare delivery and provide reasonable adjustments to address barriers to access.

Action	
2.1	Through the <i>Healthy Tasmania Five-Year Strategic Plan 2022–2026</i> , continue to advocate and work across sectors to ensure that Tasmanian neighbourhoods are liveable, supportive of physical activity and accessible to all people, including people with disability.
2.2	As part of the implementation of projects identified in the Department of Health masterplans, undertake a staged review of drop-off zones, disability parking bays and taxi infrastructure to identify opportunities for improvement.
2.3	In alignment with broader <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (CTH)</i> compliance requirements, ensure considerations of low sensory areas are included in Department of Health design briefs as part of Department of Health masterplanning.
2.4	Enhance the accessibility of BreastScreen Tasmania services across the State, by replacing the current mobile screening unit with a new vehicle that better supports the accessibility of the service to people with disability.
2.5	Support the ongoing delivery of the Conscious Sedation Program, including expansion of the program to the greater north, to ensure that people with special needs are able to more easily access dental care in community settings across Tasmania.
2.6	Work with other Tasmanian Government agencies and the National Disability Insurance Agency to develop collaborative approaches and a multiagency response to support the discharge of young people with disability who remain in hospital but are medically ready to leave.



PRIORITY AREA THREE: DECISION MAKING

Intent: Empower people with disability to make informed decisions about their healthcare.

Action	
3.1	Explore opportunities to improve engagement with people with disability and disability stakeholders, including opportunities to enhance disability representation on the Department's Consumer Community Engagement Councils.
3.2	Embed a focus on disability inclusion and awareness into key leadership and governance approaches.
3.3	Add disability inclusion as a regular item on key leadership and governance meeting agendas.
3.4	Establish a governance group, that includes members of the Tasmanian disability community, to oversee the development of the Strategy's action plans, and monitor and report on the implementation of the Strategy. This group will also support the Department of Health to meet requirements under the <i>Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024</i> . The Department will consult with this group when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public.
3.5	Develop and release the <i>Tasmanian Health Literacy Action Plan 2026–2030</i> to make health information easier to understand and use for all Tasmanians, including people with disability, across services, communities, and policies.
3.6	Build on the Department's existing work to strengthen its approaches to informed consent by exploring ways to improve shared decision making practices for people with disability accessing health services.



PRIORITY AREA FOUR: WORKFORCE

Intent: Ensure our health workforce has the awareness and knowledge to provide health care that meets the diverse needs of people with disability. Build a health workforce profile which reflects the diversity of our population with disability.

Action	
4.1	Support the ongoing development of Oral Health Coaches (dental assistants with extended scope) who will be able to work with priority patient groups, such as people with intellectual disability and their families/carers in providing education and guidance on their oral health needs. This may include hygiene and brushing support, and the application of fluoride varnish. This action aligns with the <i>National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability</i> .
4.2	Establish disability awareness resources (e.g. intranet page or e-learning) and information sessions (e.g. intranet page or e-learning) for Department of Health and Tasmanian Health Service Clinical Staff. These resources will provide staff with an understanding of the experiences people with disability might have when engaging with Tasmania's public health services, and to strengthen staff awareness of the health needs of people with disability, and the role of their carers, in accessing healthcare. This action will build on the Department's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Framework, and be led through the One Health Culture program.
4.3	Embed a focus on disability inclusion in the implementation of the Department's new <i>Health Workforce Sustainability Strategy and Plan</i> . This document will outline priorities and initiatives that will guide the development of our health workforce.
4.4	Participate in the Oral Health Community of Practice, which is supported by the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health. This initiative is designed to improve the delivery of oral health care for people with intellectual disability.



PRIORITY AREA FIVE: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Intent: Improve our health data on people with disability and ensure accessibility to information.

Action	
5.1	<p>Design and implement digital health solutions under the Bluegum Digital Health Transformation Program to improve information sharing between the Department and the Tasmanian Health Service, supporting smoother and more coordinated patient experiences.</p> <p>In 2026, this will include delivering an eReferrals system, an ePrescribing trial, and the Electronic Meals Management Solution. These activities will lay the groundwork for the development of an electronic medical record, expected to be delivered in late 2028. The electronic medical record will benefit all Tasmanians, including people with disability, by improving the continuity, accuracy and accessibility of health information across services.</p>
5.2	<p>To support immediate improvements in information sharing while the electronic medical record is being developed (see Action 5.1), explore opportunities to expand or enhance the use of the pre-operative “About Me” form across all areas of the Department and the Tasmanian Health Service. This includes planned procedures, emergency departments, general hospital admissions, and community health and mental health services.</p>
5.3	<p>Review hospital patient forms, information and other materials to support implementation of information for patients in available and accessible, multiple formats (including plain/easy English and options for people with vision impairment).</p>
5.4	<p>Develop a mechanism to capture, report and respond to disability-related feedback and complaints.</p>
5.5	<p>Ensure key Department documents are provided in accessible formats. This should be in line with the <i>National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards User Guide for health care of people with intellectual disability</i>, which was released in October 2024.</p>
5.6	<p>Review current Care@Home systems and materials to ensure patients receive information and care in formats that are accessible and easy to use.</p>
5.7	<p>As part of <i>The Health Revolution: Tasmania’s 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy</i>, develop and provide health promotion and screening materials that are available in Auslan-interpreted, captioned, plain-language and easy-read formats.</p>



STRATEGY-WIDE ACTION

Alongside the actions in each of the five priority areas, the Department has also identified a new action that applies across the whole Strategy. This action will support how the Strategy is put into practice and help ensure it is delivering meaningful outcomes for people with disability.

Action
6.1 Create and implement an evaluation framework to assess how well the Disability Health Strategy improves health services for people with disability in Tasmania.

