8. Disability

Definition of disability

The Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 defines disability as:

- Total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions;
- Total or partial loss of a part of the body;
- The presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness;
- The malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body;
- A disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction; and
- A disorder, illness or disease that affects a person's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgment or results in disturbed behaviour.[1]

This includes a disability that:
- Presently exists;
- Previously existed but no longer exists;
- May exist in the future; and
- Is imputed to a person (meaning it is thought or implied that the person has a disability but does not).[2]

Types of disability

The majority of people with disability have a physical disability (83.9%), 11.3% have mental or behavioural disability and 4.8% have an intellectual or development disability.[3] The breadth of impairments and medical conditions covered by the Disability Discrimination Act comprise of:

- Physical – affects a person's mobility or dexterity;
- Intellectual – affects a person's abilities to learn;
- Mental Illness – affects a person's thinking process;
- Sensory – affects a person's ability to hear or see;
- Neurological – affects the person's brain and central nervous system;
- Physical disfigurement; or
- Immunological – the presence of organisms causing disease in the body.[4]

To be deemed a disability, the impairment or condition must impact daily activities, communication and/or mobility and has lasted or is likely to last six months or more.[5]

Demographics

- Over 4 million people in Australia have some form of disability. That equates to 1 in 5 people.[6]
- Nineteen percent (19%) of men and 18% of women have a disability.[7]
- Forty-three percent (43%) of people over 55 years have one or more disabilities. [8]
- Two point two million (2.2 million) Australians of working age (15-64 yrs) have a disability. [9]
- People with a disability are twice as likely to be in the bottom 20% of gross household incomes. [10]

Disability in Monash

In the City of Monash, 7,740 people (or 4.6% of the Monash population) report needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability which is comparable to the Victorian measure of 4.5%. [11]

In 2011, 15,302 Monash residents, or 11% of all Monash residents aged 15 years and over, reported they were providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability which is comparable to 10.9% of Greater Melbourne residents.[12] Of those providing care on Monash 60% of these carers were female and 40% were male, which again is comparable to Greater Melbourne which has 61% female carers. [13]

National Disability Insurance Scheme
The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a national program that provides a new way to deliver services and support for people with permanent and significant disability in Australia.

With the NDIS, people with a disability can choose supports and services to meet their individual needs, rather than using a one-size-fits-all system. The NDIS is being rolled out progressively in Victoria over a three-year period from 1 July 2016. By July 2019, it is estimated that 105,000 Victorians will have transitioned to the scheme.[14]

Victorian State Disability Plan 2017–2020
The Victorian Government's vision is to build an inclusive community where people with a disability are supported and empowered to make choices that enable them to live a life they value.

The Victorian State Disability Plan 2017–2020 will set out the government's shared goals for developing a fairer Victoria, making it easier for every person to participate in every part of life. Following consultation with the community, the plan is due to be in place by 1 January 2017.[15]

Monash Services and Policy
Monash Council is committed to addressing the physical, communication and attitudinal barriers to ensure people with a disability, their families and carers can fully participate in all aspects of life and build the community's capacity to experience a rich and rewarding life.

Metro Access Worker
Monash Council has a Metro Access Worker to support people with disabilities to participate fully in community life. They are responsible for working with support providers to ensure people with disabilities can access services and information required.

Monash Council also provides community transport for clients and older residents with a disability who have difficulty accessing public transport with clients picked up from their home and taken to the library, shops or other community locations.

Home and Community Care Program
The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) has commenced, replacing the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. The CHSP is the entry level for Australia's aged care system for people aged 65 years and over (or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) and their carers who need support to remain living independently at home.

From 1 July 2016, the Australian Government will assume full funding, policy and operational responsibility for HACC services and specified episodic specialist disability services for older people in Victoria to form part of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), with

Victoria will continue to fund HACC services for people aged under 65 years (under 50 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people).

These changes will enable the creation of a national aged care system. The CHSP aims to help older people stay independent and remain in their homes and communities for as long as they can and wish to do so.

Services provided under this program include:

- Domestic Assistance
- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Food Services
- Home Safety Service
- Social Support [16]

Disability Framework and Action Plan 2013 - 2017
The Monash Disability Framework and Action Plan 2013 - 2017 supports Council to address access and inclusion issues to ensure that people with a disability are provided with opportunities to fully participate in all aspects of life in Monash. The Disability Action Plan 2013 - 2017 sits under the overarching Access and Equity Framework 2013 - 2017.

The Access and Equity Framework provides a context to all Council planning activities including the development of plans which are specific to the needs and interests of particular target groups. Monash's Access and Equity Framework and Disability Action Plan will be reviewed in 2017.

8. Disability – Reference List

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