

JOINT STATEMENT:

Australia's Peak Bodies for Women with Disabilities Endorse Federal Election Platform and Budget Response

Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA), Women with Disabilities ACT (WWDACT), and Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV) stand united in our endorsement of [WWDA's 2025 Federal Election Platform](#) and [2025-26 Federal Budget Response](#). As independent organisations serving overlapping but distinct jurisdictions, we collectively call for meaningful reform at the intersection of gender and disability.

Endorsement of WWDA's Election Platform

We jointly endorse the three critical asks outlined in [WWDA's 2025 Federal Election Platform](#):

1. **Funding for a disability-led gender-based violence working group** to support the implementation of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032. This is urgently needed given women with disabilities are twice as likely to experience sexual violence in their lifetime compared to women without disabilities.
2. **Reform of legal definitions of 'domestic violence'** to include carer relationships and disability-specific forms of abuse. We strongly support the implementation of the Disability Royal Commission's recommendation 8.24 regarding disability-inclusive definitions of family and domestic violence.
3. **Gender-responsive foundational supports for chronic health conditions** that address the disproportionate impact on women, who are more likely to live with multiple chronic conditions, including autoimmune disorders that are four times more prevalent in women. This unmet need was highlighted by our organisations' recent joint consultation and report on general foundational supports.

Endorsement of WWDA's Federal Budget Response

Our organisations share concerns regarding the 2025-26 Federal Budget's treatment of issues affecting our communities, outlined in [WWDA's 2025-26 Federal Budget Response](#). While we acknowledge positive investments in women's health, education, and cost of living relief, the budget largely fails to address the specific needs of women and gender-diverse people with disabilities. We are particularly concerned about the lack of targeted measures to improve economic security, safety, and access to services for women and gender-diverse people with disabilities. The failure to increase the Disability Support Pension and other social security income supports is condemning a

significant proportion of women and gender diverse people with disabilities to a life of entrenched poverty.

The proposed reforms to the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program to develop foundational supports are a step in the right direction. Further clarity and commitments are needed from State and Territory Governments to ensure foundational supports are adequately funded and address the gendered disparities in disability support access and outcomes for women and gender-diverse people- regardless of their NDIS status. We call for a more inclusive, rights-based approach that recognises the nexus of gender and disability in policy-making and budget allocation, and urge all levels of government to engage meaningfully with our organisations to address the necessary systemic reforms.

State and Territory Considerations

Foundational supports require careful coordination across all levels of government. We emphasise that:

- The success of foundational supports depends on robust co-funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and states/territories that must be negotiated transparently.
- Our organisations must be meaningfully included in co-design processes to ensure these supports are genuinely responsive to the needs of women, girls and gender-diverse people with disabilities across all jurisdictions.
- The proposed allocation of 30% of foundational support funding to address disability connected to conditions with gendered prevalence must be maintained in these negotiations.
- Many women and gender-diverse people with disabilities are not NDIS participants and significant gendered barriers persist to enter the Scheme. Foundational supports must address the unmet need in support access for women and gender-diverse people with disabilities- regardless of their NDIS status.
- Women and gender diverse people should have access to support no matter where in Australia they live with the lack of services in rural and remote Australia needing to be meaningfully addressed

Domestic and family violence interventions continue to require significant State and Territory leadership. We call for:

- Increased investment to ensure domestic and family violence refuges are accessible across all jurisdictions.

- Accelerating the timeline to implement the Disability Royal Commission's recommendations regarding violence against women and gender-diverse people with disabilities.
- Recognition of disability-specific forms of violence in state and territory family violence legislation, policies and programs.

Commitment to Allied Work

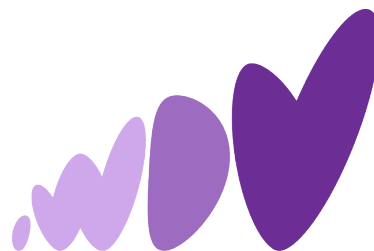
As independent peak bodies representing women, girls and gender-diverse people with disabilities at national, state and territory levels, we are committed to working together to advance gender equity and disability justice. Our shared expertise spans policy, advocacy, and direct engagement with our communities.

We call on all political parties and all levels of government to engage meaningfully with our organisations to address the systemic reforms needed to create an equitable and safe Australia for all women, girls and gender-diverse people with disabilities.

This statement is jointly issued by Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA), Women with Disabilities ACT (WWDACT), and Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV).



**Women with
Disabilities ACT**



**Women with
Disabilities
Victoria**



**Women
With
Disabilities
Australia**
(WWDA)