

# DISABILITY



Your faith | Your vote | Your voice

The Uniting Church in Australia *Statement of Access and Welcome* affirms that all people are created in the image of God, including people with disability. The faith, gifts, hopes and dreams of people with disability are to be valued and honoured, and God is a God of justice and peace, who seeks reconciliation amongst all people. As a community of reconciliation, the Uniting Church seeks to advocate for justice and equality for people with disability in the wider community.”

AS A  
COMMUNITY OF  
RECONCILIATION  
THE UNITING  
CHURCH SEEKS  
TO ADVOCATE  
FOR JUSTICE  
AND EQUALITY  
FOR PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITY  
IN THE WIDER  
COMMUNITY.

## OUR CONCERNS

A substantial and sustained financial commitment is necessary to build a comprehensive system of foundational supports for the nearly 20 per cent of Western Australians who live with a disability. These supports are essential for improving the quality of life and inclusion of people who do not qualify for the NDIS. Here are some key areas where investment is required:

**Targeted Supports:** Funding is needed for targeted foundational supports, such as home and community supports (eg shopping and cleaning), aids and equipment for people with less intensive support needs, and capacity-building programs for adults with psychosocial disabilities. Investment in community-based psychosocial supports can help reduce avoidable hospital admissions and relieve pressure on community treatment services.

**Inclusive Employment Programs:** The unemployment rate for people with disability is 7.5 per cent - more than double that for people without disability. Funding for disability employment supports and programs that increase social and economic participation for people with disabilities is necessary to ensure they have access to meaningful employment opportunities.

**Accessible Housing:** Unlike many other states and territories, Western Australia has opted out of the Silver Level accessibility standards from the National Construction Code, which were introduced to ensure new homes are accessible to people with disabilities. These standards include features such as step-free entries, wider doorways, hobless showers, reinforced walls in bathrooms for future installation of rails, and a toilet at entry level.

**Capacity Building and Peer Support:** In WA, 12 per cent of people with disability have experienced discrimination in the last 12 months, slightly above the national rate of 10.5 per cent. Programs that focus on individual and family capacity building, peer support, and self-advocacy are essential for empowering people with disabilities and their families.

## ASK YOUR CANDIDATES

- What plans do you have to enhance foundational community support networks and services for people with disabilities and their families?
- How will you ensure that public spaces, transportation, and buildings are accessible to people with disabilities?
- What initiatives will you implement to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
- What measures will you take to improve healthcare services for people with disabilities, including mental health support?
- How will you address the need for accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities?
- How will you ensure that people with disabilities are represented in decision-making processes and that their voices are heard??



Uniting Church in Australia  
Western Australia