



# ACT Down Syndrome & Intellectual Disability

ACT Down Syndrome & Intellectual Disability (DSID) is committed to promoting and supporting inclusivity across the ACT and surrounding regions by ensuring the authentic voice of people with intellectual disability is heard and understood. We work actively within the community to assist in the removal of barriers for people with disability to access mainstream services and we aim to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disability by providing support, training, information and referrals to individuals, families, carers, schools, employers, and organisations. We are committed to working alongside the ACT Government as systemic advocates and consider ourselves a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) as per General Comment 7 of the UNCRPD. We are members of the ACT Disability Directed Consumer Advocacy Caucus and the ACT member of both Inclusion Australia and Down Syndrome Australia.

## **Budget Request**

### **Advocacy Reference Group for people with intellectual disability**

**\$100,000.00**

Ongoing coordination, training and wages of the established ACT Down Syndrome & Intellectual Disability **Advocacy Reference Group**. This group of 6 adults with intellectual disability have been employed by DSID, supported by funding from the ACT Government to co-design and deliver workshops on Supported Decision Making and Self Advocacy to Canberra's with intellectual disability. The group have also delivered these workshops to NDIS service providers, community groups and health professionals. The group want people with intellectual disability, families and other community members to understand that with the correct support, people with intellectual disability can and do make important decisions about their lives. The group also educates people with intellectual disability about self-advocacy which is a vital part of the supported decision-making process.

In addition to facilitating workshops around Canberra, the group provides other services such as an Easy Read Testing Panel, public speaking, and consultation on a range of issues relating to people with disability in Canberra along with providing ad-hoc advice and support. All Advocacy Reference Group members are paid a full award wage and all support they require is provided by DSID.

Ongoing funding is required for this group as the lived experience and authentic voice of people with intellectual disability is a vitally important aspect of the Canberra Community.

## **Systemic Advocacy Funding**

**\$50,000.00**

DSID requests that the ACT Government fund a portion of the systemic advocacy work we do within the Canberra community. DSID work alongside the ACT Government to ensure better outcomes for people with intellectual disability and their support networks. Together with the Advocacy Reference Group, DISD will support the ACT Government to deliver the ACT Disability Strategy, Disability Health Strategy, Inclusive Education Strategy and the Disability Justice Strategy.

The Advocacy Reference Group and DSID Systemic Advocates are able to support the ACT Government to implement the disability strategies and associated action plans by providing expert advice and consultation on a range of issues such employment, transport, health, housing, education, foundational supports, supported decision making, self advocacy and inclusive communication.

**Total funding request for the 2026/2027 financial year: \$150,000.00**

This submission is endorsed by Advocacy for Inclusion.