# ADDC Bulletin: July 2025 edition

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

As we await the first sitting of the 48th Parliament of Australia, we recently made a productive visit to Canberra to meet with key stakeholders. These insightful discussions will help form our policy platform as the Federal Government begins implementing the International Disability and Equity Rights Strategy (IDEARS). You can read our visit report below [here](#CanberraMeeting).

We’re also pleased to share a new survey for ADDC members. As a member-based organisation, the Executive Committee is seeking input on ADDC’s future direction - especially our advocacy priorities - and to better understand members’ interests and expectations. Learn more and take the survey [here](#Survey).

Earlier this year, we mentioned the 18th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP18), held in New York in June. This major event in the disability sector featured a presentation by our committee member, Tim Harte. Please see [here](#TimHarte) for details on Tim’s presentation.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Bloom

ADDC Executive Officer

# ADDC NEWS

## Meeting with key stakeholders in Canberra

This month, ADDC and CBM Australia were in Canberra to deepen engagement with key stakeholders across government and the development sector. This visit marks the first opportunity to meet with colleagues from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) since the formation of the new Government following the Federal election earlier this year. Discussions focused on Australia’s performance targets under the International Disability and Equity Rights Strategy, exploring how priority areas are being addressed and identifying pathways to advance disability equity and rights.

## We Want to Hear from You: Help Shape ADDC’s Advocacy and Member Engagement

We’re inviting members of ADDC to take part in a short survey to help guide our advocacy efforts and strengthen how we engage with our members. This is your opportunity to share:

* Your vision for ADDC’s future,
* Your experience as a member,
* What you’d like to contribute and receive through your membership,
* Insights about your work or organisation, and
* Any additional feedback you’d like to offer.

Complete the survey [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QVWZQ67). The closing date for the survey is Monday, 4 August 2025.

Your input will help us better support our members and advance disability equity and rights across our work.

If you have any accessibility needs, face any barriers in completing the survey, or have questions, please contact Kathryn Bloom at [kbloom@addc.org.au](mailto:kbloom@addc.org.au).

We look forward to hearing your ideas and continuing to build our collective impact.

# IN THE NEWS

## 18th Session CRPD Conference of States Parties (COSP18)

The 18th session of COSP was held in the United Nations Headquarters, New York from the 10th-12th of June. This session had the overarching theme of ‘Enhancing public awareness of the rights and contributions of people with disabilities for social development leading up to the Second World Summit for Social Development. As well as this overarching theme, COSP18 also had three subthemes:

* Empowering persons with disabilities and enhancing social development policies through innovative financing,
* Leaving no one behind: using AI as a tool for supporting inclusivity to strengthen the participation of people with disabilities and
* Recognising and addressing the rights of Indigenous persons with disabilities and their role in advancing disability inclusion.

COSP18 held several side events focused on the various opportunities and challenges pertaining to disability inclusion globally. A number of these side events, as well as the meetings from COSP18, were recorded and are available to be viewed [here](https://webtv.un.org/en/search?query=%22COSP18%22&page=1).

## ADDC Executive Committee member Tim Harte advocates for Global Youth Representation at COSP18

ADDC Executive Committee Member and Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) representative Tim Harte delivered an intervention speech at COSP18 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.  
  
In Tim’s address, Tim called for the establishment of a transparent, democratic, and sustainably funded global youth disability network—an expansion of the International Disability Alliance’s Youth Committee. This initiative aims to ensure that young people with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in shaping the policies and decisions that impact their lives.  
  
“Young people with disabilities are already leading in areas such as climate action, peacebuilding, governance, and innovation,” Tim said. “Inclusive governance structures must evolve to reflect this—not through tokenism, but through resourced, representative, and rights-based participation.”  
Tim emphasised: “‘Nothing about us without us’ rings hollow until young people with disabilities are not just present but empowered to shape the policies that define our futures.”  
  
Tim’s message was clear: the next generation is ready to lead—what’s needed now is collective commitment and investment.  
  
Tim is also an elected Pacific Regional Representative for the Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities.  
  
Access Tim’s speech to COSP18 on LinkedIn [here](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7338704137817047041/).

## Breaking New Ground: A Global Push for Disability Inclusion in Eye Health

At this year’s #2030InSight conference in Nepal, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) launched its first ever Disability Inclusion Member Engagement Group – a milestone moment in the global movement for inclusive eye health.

People with disabilities represent roughly 16% of the world’s population, yet they continue to face significant barriers in accessing equitable, quality eye care. This new group brings together passionate individuals and organisations from across the sector to change that.

Lisa Johnson, Global Equity and Inclusion Lead at The Fred Hollows Foundation and Deputy Chair of ADDC, led the application to IAPB for the group’s formation, with the strong backing of Sightsavers International, Light for the World, CBM International, Vision 2020, and CBM Global. We wanted to create a dedicated space for collaboration, where we can pool resources, share tools and collectively tackle common challenges that hinder progress toward disability-inclusive eye health.

The launch of this group is more than a new initiative. It’s a signal of the sector’s readiness to build more inclusive systems, share learning, and create meaningful change for people with disabilities around the world.

If you’re working in eye health and would like to stay informed or get involved, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact ljohnson@hollows.org to join the conversation and help shape the agenda for this new and exciting group.

Read more about this inaugural meeting [here](https://www.iapb.org/blog/breaking-new-ground-a-global-push-for-disability-inclusion-in-eye-health/).

## Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025

The 8th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held from the 2nd – 6th of June, in Geneva, Switzerland. The overarching theme was “Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today”. The outcome document aims to serve as a guide and a rallying call to government and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework until 2030.

You can access the outcome document [here](https://globalplatform.undrr.org/publication/global-platform-2025-co-chairs-summary-geneva-call-disaster-risk-reduction).

## IDA Advancing Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): Addressing Gaps and Strengthening Resilience at Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR)

The IDA coordinated a session at the GPDRR, ‘Advancing Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): Addressing Gaps and Strengthening Resilience’. This session was aimed at addressing the [2023 Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters,](https://globalplatform.undrr.org/conference-event/advancing-disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction-drr-addressing-gaps-and) conducted by UNDRR and focused on the progress of disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction over the last decade. The report found that 84% of respondents were lacking a personal preparedness plan and only 11% were aware of national DRR plans.

This session brought together policymakers, practitioners, disability rights advocates and DRR experts to discuss and engage in actionable strategies for incorporating disability inclusion into DRR frameworks, enhancing accessible risk information and strengthening disability-disaggregated data for more equitable and effective disaster response and preparedness.

The outcomes of this session were to strengthen policy and practice recommendations for systemic disability DRR, increased awareness and capacity for inclusive risk information and data collection for more equitable and effective disaster response and preparedness.

## Demanding Rights: Global Action for Skin Health and Inclusion

In an historic move, the 78th World Health Assembly passed a landmark resolution recognizing skin diseases a major cause of disability. The resolution urges the integration of dermatological care into universal health coverage, acknowledging the profound physical, mental and social impacts of untreated skin conditions.

Aligned with this global momentum, June 13, 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of International Albinism Awareness Day, under the theme: “Demanding our rights: Protecting our skin, Preserving our lives”. The observance highlighted the urgent need to combat violence, discrimination, and skin cancer risks faced by people with albinism, particularly in regions where sun protection and medical access remain inadequate.

Together, these developments reflect a growing international recognition that skin health is a human right. Addressing dermatological conditions and albinism is essential to achieving inclusive, disability-sensitive healthcare systems worldwide.

Read more about the resolution [here](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB156/B156_(24)-en.pdf), and the day marking albinism awareness globally [here](https://www.un.org/en/observances/albinism-day).

# NEW RESOURCES

## CBM Australia’s Disability Movement Strengthening Framework

CBM Australia have released their Disability Movement Strengthening Framework. Based on 48 years’ experience working with the disability movement and in consultation with CBM Australia’s partners who have contributed their knowledge and expertise, this framework outlines CBM’s approach for working with and strengthening the disability movement. The collective vision for CBM Australia is for an inclusive world in which all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

You can access and download the framework [here](https://www.cbm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/CBMAs-Disability-Movement-Strengthening-Framework.pdf).

## Advancing Accessible Communication

In partnership with the CBM Australian and support from the Australian Government, National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) produced Easy Read summaries of the Include Us project evaluation in English and Nepali.

These simplified, illustrated versions make key findings clear and inclusive, highlighting the project’s impact on education, healthcare, justice, and disability representation in Nepal’s census. NFDN ensures accessibility by offering formats like Braille, audio, and Easy Read, with input from people with intellectual disabilities.

Read more about CBM’s work on making the evaluation report Easy read [here](https://www.cbm.org.au/stories/easy-read-your-way-through-our-evaluation-report).

Read the Easy Read [summary of the project evaluation](https://www.cbm.org.au/resource/include-us-advocacy-project-in-nepal).

## Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) in the Pacific

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) has released a landmark position paper on Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) in the Pacific.

While CBID is a key concept in regional disability frameworks, its practical meaning has often been unclear. PDF identified this gap and, with support from CBM Inclusion Advisory Group and member Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), has clarified what CBID looks like in Pacific communities.

The paper draws on lived experience and community insights to outline current practices and offer guidance for future action—ensuring CBID becomes a reality for all.

The position paper was developed with support from DFAT via the CBM Inclusion Advisory Group.

Read the paper under the theme “CBID“ under the “Resources” tab [here](https://pacificdisability.org/resources/).

Directly download the paper [here.](https://bit.ly/44xYigM)

## GDS Commitments Portal

Following the Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2025, the GDS Commitments Portal has been significantly updated and enhanced. Co-hosted by IDA, Germany, and Jordan, the new portal features improved filters and clearer data presentation, making it easier to understand and navigate. Users can now more easily explore commitments made by various stakeholders across the 2018, 2022, and 2025 summits, with options to filter by specific areas and download relevant data. The portal also provides detailed insights into who made each commitment, where they apply, and what resources and partners are involved in driving change.

At GDS 2025, governments played a prominent role, submitting 398 of the 813 total commitments—nearly 49% of all pledges. This marks a notable increase compared to previous summits, with government commitments comprising roughly 36% in 2018 and 32% in 2022. Among the many pledges, CBM Global made a significant commitment to allocate at least 20% of its partner funding to Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) by the end of 2027. This reflects a continued dedication to fostering partnerships rooted in trust, respect, and the recognition of OPDs as key drivers of disability-inclusive development.

You can explore and access the updated GDS Commitments Portal [here](https://gds.idata.tools/overview).

## DFAT (2025) Disability Equity in Investment Design Good Practice Note

Investment design is a critical enabler of disability equity and rights across development programs. This Good Practice Note helps program managers and design teams to embed disability equity and rights in investment designs, aligned with DFAT’s International Development Programming Guide.

This guidance note was prepared under the DFAT–CBM Australia Technical Partnership.

Access the note [here](https://did4all.com.au/resources/disability-equity-in-investment-design-good-practice-note-pdf).

## DFAT (2025) Reasonable Accommodation in Development Programs Good Practice Note

This Reasonable Accommodation in Development Programs Good Practice Note has been developed to support DFAT staff and partners to understand what reasonable accommodation is, DFAT’s obligations to ensure it is provided, and how to use it as a tool for enabling participation of people with disability on an equal basis with others. It includes specific examples across the development program cycle and suggestions for systemic improvements to ensure access to reasonable accommodation wherever and whenever it is needed.

This guidance note was prepared under the DFAT–CBM Australia Technical Partnership.

Access the note [here](https://did4all.com.au/resources/dfat-2025-reasonable-accommodation-in-development-programs-good-practice-note).

# WEBINAR RECORDINGS

## Leave No One Behind - Global Platform for DRR 2025

Disability was a major focus for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2025 with the key message of *Leave No One Behind*. This message emphasizes that all members of society can be leaders and agents for change and resilience and formed the focus for the session, *Leave no one behind: Realising the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework*.

This session focused on the importance and need for inclusive leadership and enacting all members of society as part of DRR. It also provided the opportunity for governments and stakeholders to provide updates and progress in including diverse perspectives and the leadership of women, people with disabilities and youth within formal DRR decision-making and governance processes.

You can access and watch the livestream of this session [here](https://www.youtube.com/embed/yBgiglXEoGo?autoplay=1).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 8th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability, 13-17 October

The Pacific Regional Conference on Disability is a regional event organised every two years by the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF). It brings together, and builds partnerships between, national government disability focal points, organisations of people with disabilities, and partners to support disability inclusive development in the Pacific.

Registrations are yet to be opened but mark your calendar and be part of [this event](https://www.facebook.com/PacificDisabilityForum/posts/-save-the-datethe-8th-pacific-regional-conference-on-disability-prcd-2025-is-hap/1048884750609630/).

## ACFID National Conference 2025, 5-6 November

As ACFID marks its 60th anniversary, the 2025 Conference is an opportunity to reflect on the progress made across the development and humanitarian sector, and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that lie before us.

Held in Canberra on 5–6 November 2025, the event will bring together ACFID members, government, partners, and sector leaders to connect, share knowledge, and explore how we can continue to drive positive global change.

Day 1 will feature ACFID’s Annual General Meeting, networking, and side events.

Day 2 will include plenary sessions, member showcases, high-level engagement, and conversations with decision-makers.

Visit the [conference website](https://acfid.asn.au/members/conference-2025-2/) to find out more about the program, speakers, and everything you need to know.

# OPPORTUNITIES

**CBM Australia is hiring- Communications Specialist**

CBM Australia is seeking an experienced and passionate Communications Specialist to join the CBM Australia team. This is a rewarding opportunity in the Communications Specialist role which forms part of CBM Australia’s Policy and Advocacy team.

This position requires a candidate with a passion for human rights, news, politics, who can thrive in dynamic environments and brings strong skills in communication strategy and reaching various audiences. This role involves working with colleagues across the organization to ideate and plan, will project manage the delivery of key communications content packages, while also working independently to research, write and produce accurate and timely proactive or reactive content to publicise CBMA’s advocacy and international programs work.

CBM Australia is seeking an applicant who has excellent communication and written skills, demonstrated organizational and time management skills, excellent stakeholder management skills with experience working on and contributing to the management of orgnaisation-wide projects in a cross-functional environment, demonstrated proactive attitude and ability to adapt, brings creative thinking and new ideas, commitment to CBM’s mission and values and a willingness to contribute to the growth and development of CBM and its work. Experience working in or demonstrated understanding of international development or disability equity and rights is desirable.

You can learn more about the specific requirements, access the job description and how to apply [here](https://www.cbm.org.au/career/communications-specialist).

# ABOUT US

ADDC is an Australian, international network focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries; building on a human rights platform for disability advocacy. To join ADDC (membership is free) or find out more, please visit our [website](http://www.addc.org.au).

This bulletin aims to provide information on Disability Inclusive Development across organizations working to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities both here in Australia and across the world. Generic disability and domestic information will be included in our Bulletins when possible as part of our commitment to disability advocacy and strengthening partnerships; however, our focus remains on disability and development issues.

**Acknowledgment of Country:** ADDC recognizes the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We acknowledge their resilience, contributions and connection to land, culture and water. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future. 45 percent of Aboriginal Australians live with a disability or a long-term, restricting health condition. They are 2.1 times more likely to be persons with disabilities than non-Aboriginal Australians, and 5 times more likely to experience a mental health condition. Aboriginal people with disabilities participate in cultural activities at the same rates as those without disabilities. We pay our respects to their enduring spirit and inclusivity.

**Disclaimer:** This bulletin is a compilation of other organizations’ articles and material. While every effort made is to validate content, ADDC does not endorse all opinions and views contacted within the Bulletin.