# **ADDC Bulletin: May 2025 edition**

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

The Labor Government has announced its new ministry, and we outline the appointments that are most relevant to the work of the ADDC [below](#MinisterialAppts) and are seeking to engage with the ministers to champion a strong and growing aid program that advances the rights of people with disabilities, particularly through the implementation and adequate resourcing of the IDEARS strategy.

Next week, the key stakeholders in the humanitarian aid sector will be meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva for the [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025)](#Bookmark3). This is an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and analyse the progress of the implementation of the Sendai Framework, marking a critical checkpoint between the 2023 High-Level Meeting on the Sendai Framework midterm review and the final five years of the Framework’s implementation. See [below](#SideEvent) also to register to virtually attend CBM Global Disability Inclusion’s side event on building inclusive disaster preparedness here.

The 18th session of the [Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18)](#Bookmark4) will take place from June 10 to 12 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This year's conference promises to be a pivotal gathering of global leaders, activists, and advocates, dedicated to advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities on a worldwide scale. Stay tuned to our social media on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-disability-and-development-consortium/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/addcnews/) and [X](https://twitter.com/addcnews) where we will be bringing you the latest developments on this year’s COSP.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Bloom

ADDC Executive Officer

# **ADDC NEWS**

**Ministerial appointments following the Federal election**

Following the recent Federal election, the Labor Government has announced its new ministerial appointments, and we wanted to share the key updates most relevant to ADDC’s work in international development and disability equity.

We welcome Dr Anne Aly MP as the newly appointed Minister for International Development, alongside her roles as Minister for Small Business and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Dr Aly’s appointment to the international development portfolio is particularly significant for ADDC, and we have written to her to introduce our work and seek a meeting to discuss the importance of disability equity and the implementation of IDEARS.

Other key appointments include Pat Conroy MP, as Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs; Senator Penny Wong, who remains Minister for Foreign Affairs; Matt Thistlethwaite who has been appointed as Assistant Minister for Immigration and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Senator Nita Green, who has been appointed Assistant Minister for Tourism, Assistant Minister for Northern Australia, and Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs. We have also reached out to these ministers, as well as the Prime Minister, to advocate for the inclusion of disability equity in Australia’s international development agenda.

We look forward to engaging with the new ministry and continuing to champion inclusive development across all levels of government.

# **IN THE NEWS**

**ACFID welcomes the Albanese Government’s ministerial appointments, strengthening Australia’s commitment to international development**

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the peak body for Australian development and humanitarian NGOs welcomed several foreign policy ministerial appointments, including the appointment of The Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP to the role of Minister for International Development.

ACFID CEO, Matthew Maury said, “Australian development and humanitarian NGOs welcome the appointment of Minister Anne Aly to the role of Minister for International Development. We look forward to working with Minister Aly, building on the work of Minister Conroy as the sector faces a world with rising conflict, hunger, and climate disasters.”

ACFID looks forward to building on the constructive reforms made in the first Albanese Government to revitalise Australia’s international development, humanitarian, and climate finance programs.

Read the full media release [here](https://acfid.asn.au/acfid-welcomes-the-albanese-governments-ministerial-appointments-strengthening-australias-commitment-to-international-development/).

**Fiji Disabled People’s Federation president Setareki Macanawai: GEDSI ‘just another label’**

THE gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) concept used in development work is just another label, says Fiji Disabled Persons Federation president Setareki Macanawai.

The federation is calling for more sincere and genuine engagement of people with disabilities.

“The issue I have with that — GEDSI — is it’s just a label, just another terminology. It benefits better the partner or the donor,” he said.

“The challenge lies with unpacking who’s implicated in GEDSI programs.

“Within that is the issue of survival of the fittest — whoever has the loudest voice, whoever is present or able to attend, whoever is better organised amongst these groups — they are the ones who get the support, more so than those who are not.”

Mr Macanawai said disability was “right at the bottom”.

“The word inclusion cannot just be tokenistic where they give something ‘for everybody’. It has to be intentional on how inclusive a project would be, making sure that the understanding, the application of that word inclusive is really understood at the local level.”

Read the full article featured in the Fiji Times [here](https://www.fijitimes.com.fj/gedsi-just-another-label/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwKfWmpleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHvRTghrlWQ42nMWodd8t55VnJxmxqFOE8RQCvhlph5E_YotpvA7_IpMKAn0T_aem_-9cRGjUFZRpftLWEkvX8rw).

**From Commitment to Action: What’s Next After the Global Disability Summit**

Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and their sister organization, the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund express pride at being deeply engaged at the Global Disability Summit (GDS) last month. Through their collaboration with allies they co-hosted critical conversations, supported a diverse delegation of 18 disability activists from the Global South and amplified the voices of grassroot movements.

One such example is this video featuring Nepali feminists with disabilities and their demands which you can watch [here](https://disabilityrightsfund.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5ab64248a9a5cf31479c17e28&id=4aa29a7707&e=9a599973fc).

DRF’s powerful takeaways from the GDS include:

* Commitments must lead to action: States and donors must be held to account to deliver their promises made at the GDS.
* The future is collaborative: Considering the shrinking landscape for funding, meaningful investments from donors and collective action will drive impact
* Movements need more than projects: Funding should target sustainable movement infrastructure rather than just short-term projects
* Grassroot voices lead the way: Lived experience across the globe, from Nigeria to Indonesia to Rwanda is advancing bold solutions
* Centre youth leadership: Africa has the youngest population, highlighting youth-leadership as essential for change. “Fifteen percent of youth in Malawi have a disability. Let’s build an inclusive world so that youth can thrive,” said Hilda Macheso, a young activist with the Association for Persons with Albinism in Malawi
* Inclusive care is a rights issue: The DRF in collaboration with Robert Bosch Stiftung, reimagined care with autonomy, dignity and community

You can learn more about DRF’s contribution and vision for post GDS in their two blogs *The future of Disability Justice* [here](https://disabilityrightsfund.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5ab64248a9a5cf31479c17e28&id=0686727d45&e=9a599973fc) and *Solidarity, Strategy and the Road Ahead* [here](https://disabilityrightsfund.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5ab64248a9a5cf31479c17e28&id=dd468f70ed&e=9a599973fc).

**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025**

The eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025) will take place from 2 to 6 June 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and hosted by the Government of Switzerland. This pivotal event will be co-chaired by both hosts and will bring together global leaders, experts, and stakeholders to accelerate action on disaster risk reduction.

This year’s conference theme is, “Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today”

GP2025 marks a critical checkpoint between the 2023 High-Level Meeting on the Sendai Framework midterm review and the final five years of the Framework’s implementation. The conference will assess progress on the Political Declaration adopted in 2023 and provide practical guidance to fast-track disaster risk reduction efforts.

Guided by the Sendai Framework’s goals, priorities, and targets, and informed by outcomes from GP2022 and upcoming 2024 Regional Platforms, GP2025 is a call to action for renewed commitment and urgent implementation to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

Read more about the GP2025 [here](https://globalplatform.undrr.org/).

**Conference of States Parties to the CRPD**

The 18th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP18) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10–12 June 2025, with the Civil Society Forum on 9 June 2025.

This year’s overarching theme is "Enhancing public awareness of the rights and contributions of persons with disabilities for social development leading up to the World Social Summit." Key sub-themes include:

* Innovative financing for disability-inclusive policies
* AI as a tool for inclusivity
* Rights of Indigenous persons with disabilities

ADDC Executive Committee member, Tim Harte, will be attending COSP and will be representing AFDO (Australian Federation of Disability Organisations). Stay tuned to our social media [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-disability-and-development-consortium/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/addcnews/) and [X](https://twitter.com/addcnews) for COSP updates.

**Global Spotlight on Assistive Technology (AT): World AT Day**

Every year on June 4, the world unites to celebrate World Day for Assistive Technology (AT) - a global movement launched in 2024 by the [*Unlock The Everyday*](https://unlocktheeveryday.org/)campaign. This annual event shines a spotlight on the transformative power of assistive technology and calls for urgent action to improve access, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Despite assistive technology being recognized as a human right, access remains deeply unequal. While 90% of people in high-income countries have access to the AT they need, only 10% in low-income countries do. This disparity underscores the need for global investment and policy reform.

Heeding these calls, last year the Government announced a $12 million investment in assistive technology across the Indo-Pacific over four years. This vital funding signals a strong commitment to turning strategy into action—accelerating access, equity, and inclusion for people with disabilities throughout the region.

Read more about how to support World AT Day [here](https://unlocktheeveryday.org/world-at-day-2025/).

**UNDRR: We must get disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction right – here are 5 ways to deliver results**

Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasizes the urgent need to move from awareness to action in disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Writing after the 2025 Global Disability Summit in Berlin, Kishore outlines five key priorities: integrating disability into DRR strategies, improving data collection, translating policies into concrete actions, expanding access to assistive technologies, and evaluating real-world impact. With the endorsement of the Amman-Berlin Declaration and growing international momentum, Kishore calls for accelerated efforts to ensure that the 15% of the global population living with disabilities are fully included in disaster resilience planning.

Read the op ed [here](https://www.undrr.org/news/we-must-get-disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction-right-here-are-5-ways-deliver-results).

# **NEW RESOURCES**

**CBM-IAG and Water for Women new resource: WASH accessibility Learning Brief**

WASH accessibility intends for all users to be able to equally access and use water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. This includes people with diverse impairments, genders, older people and those who are pregnant or menstruating.

CBM-IAG and Water for Women have created a new learning brief for WASH accessibility. The brief includes information on overcoming accessibility challenges which has been developed from lessons from Water for Women, key entry points for ensuring accessibility in WASH programs, a spotlight on projects from the Asia Pacific highlighting accessibility in action, a call to action to hardwire accessibility throughout programs as well as further resources and readings.

This new learning brief is intended to support WASH practitioners to better understand that universal accessibility is. As well as understanding how they can track and measure their progress towards achieving equitable accessibility to WASH. This is also useful for the wider development sector for understanding how to strengthen accessibility and user-centric approaches in projects and programming.

You can download and learn more about the Learning Brief [here](https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/learning-and-resources/resources/KL/Extension-Phase/Water-for-Women-2025_Hardwiring-Accessibility-Measuring-What-Matters-for-and-by-People-with-Disabilities_FINAL-Web.pdf).

**Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Self-Assessment Tool (GEDSI SAT)**

Building on experience across Water for Women projects, partners and cross-sectoral collaborators, the original WASH focused GEDSI SAT, this revised cross-sectoral GEDSI SAT is explicitly focused on climate resilience and is grounded in locally led approaches and deep learning. The original and revised editions of this SAT represent the culmination of years of comprehensive collaboration from and among Water for Women partners.

The *GEDSI SAT* is a facilitation guide for climate resilience and development program managers, GEDSI advisers, researchers and interested members of staff and is designed to support individual and collective practice on the extent and quality of gender equality, disability and social inclusion work in programs and organization.

The *GEDSI SAT* includes a step-by-step process for in-person facilitation, a new online delivery methodology for virtual/remote facilitation, printable and editable participant worksheets, printable and editable facilitator template for sharing outcomes, a GEDSI Action Plan template, sample meeting an workshop agendas, a glossary, language notes and guiding principles from Edge Effect for working with LGBTQIA+/SOGIESC people and communities, revised GEDSI Towards Transformation Continuum and plenty more resources.

You can download the GEDSI SAT [here](https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/learning-and-resources/resources/KL/Extension-Phase/Water-for-Women_2025_GEDSI-SAT_FINAL_web.pdf).

**IDDC Report on ‘Unequal climate justice for people with disabilities’**

The IDDC has released its report on climate justice for people with disabilities. It aims to bridge the gap of disability inclusive climate action that is urgently needed.

This report uses data already gathered from the disability community and civil society organisations to offer deeper understanding and insights into the diverse experiences of people with disabilities in the context of the climate crisis.

The report makes a number of findings and conclusions and ends with four key recommendations. These include:

1. Bridge the data gap to identify, address and report inequities experienced by people with disabilities and prioritise advancing disability inclusion across all climate action and responses.
2. Accelerate climate financing with a focus on disability inclusion
3. Prioritise people with disabilities in climate responses and long-term planning, implementation and budgeting
4. Strengthen partnership and coordination mechanisms to increase the engagement of people with disabilities and/or their representative organisations.

You can read more about the report's findings and download the report [here](https://www.iddcconsortium.net/blog/unequal-climate-justice-for-people-with-disabilities/).

# **YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED**

## **Call for Papers in Disability and International Development Journal**

The *Disability and International Development Journal* invites researchers and experts with practical background to submit to its upcoming issues focused on the topic of “Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities & Inclusion of people with disabilities within the SDGs.”

The aim of these upcoming issues is to highlight the situation of people living with disabilities living in the Global South. The intention is to review the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Global Sustainable Goals (SDGs) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN\_CRPD) within three regions of the world.

The first issue will focus on low and middle-income countries in Asia, the second on Africa and the third on Latin America with the aim of opening a space for critical debates and reflections on the inclusion of people with disabilities within the framework of the SDGs and CRPD.

Deadlines for each region are: Africa - April 30th, 2025, Asia - June 30th, 2025, Latin America - August 30th 2025.

For more information on the Call, see [here](https://www.bezev.de/en/institute-for-inclusive-development/journal/call-for-papers/).

**Call for Presentations at the World Blindness Summit 2025**

The World Blind Union is inviting expressions of interest to present at the World Blindness Summit which will be held September 1-3 2025 in São Paulo, Brazil with WBU General Assembly to follow on September 4-5.

The Summit is the world’s most internationally representative event for blind and partially sighted leaders, advocates and allies. The World Blind Union welcomes proposals for presentations, workshops or panels which reflect the diversity experiences and priorities within the global movement.

Some potential topics but are not limited to include:

* Inclusive education and early intervention
* Aging and vision loss
* Accessibility in cities and transportation
* Political advocacy and international human rights
* Digital accessibility and assistive technology
* Employment, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment
* Disability in humanitarian and emergency contexts
* Intersectionality, gender and disability rights

Proposals can be submitted in English, French or Spanish and you can find the submission form [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchVWzkMouIVjyyjlF0SXnFdvczJNJUbcbLZy4TpWDmmSHPWA/viewform).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CBM Global Disability Inclusion side event for Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025)**

On June 4th CBM Global Disability Inclusion will be hosting a hybrid side event: **‘***Building inclusive disaster preparedness through community-based early warning and response systems: lessons learned from Bangladesh and Fiji’.*

This side event will showcase community-led initiatives from Bangladesh and Fiji where people with disabilities are central to developing and implementing early warning and response systems, including early action plans, and how it can be adapted to other disaster-risk objectives.

This panel session features Fiji and Bangladesh OPD representatives, Jay Nasilasila of Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation and Nasrin Jahan of Disabled Child Foundation Bangladesh, and Abdullah Al Mamun of CBM Global Bangladesh and Daub Jibon Das of Caritas Bangladesh.

Read more and register [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6QYdTWabT5GAVJjgHazI5w#/registration).

## **Save the date: 8th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability**

The Pacific Disability Forum is excited to announce that the 8th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability (PRCD) will take place from October 13th to 17th 2025 in Nadi, Fiji.

The PRCD is an opportunity for people with disabilities, their families and supporters to connect, learn and share ideas around improving accessibility and inclusion across the Pacific.

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

**Not-for-Profit Scholarship 2025/26 Applications open**

Are you a new or aspiring NFP director seeking to deepen your understanding of directorship? The NFP Scholarship may be for you! The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) is offering 375 places to new and aspiring NFP leaders across the country.

The Scholarship covers 100% of the costs of the AICD’s facilitator-led course, Governance Foundation for Not-For-Profit Directors. Travel and accommodation costs are not included.

Applications are open from Monday 12th of May 2025 to Sunday 15th of June 2025.

You can read more about the scholarship and apply [here](https://www.aicd.com.au/courses-and-programs/scholarships/nfp-scholarship.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawKXqRRleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFoTGVOT0V3VUxFSFBwaE9EAR7xaY5tXumLSsSTpNTKAIjrCsrbmT9Zd0NvimbwJDe5jvSTNNcsRW0nPJGx_w_aem_MvwtNoHnIiAFTd_eBvGlKw&utm_source=AdobeCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NFPScholarship&utm_content=DM8096700).

# **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.