

ADDC Bulletin

May 2026 Edition



Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the May edition of the ADDC Bulletin.

There's been lots of action locally and globally since the last ADDC Bulletin!

The Federal Budget was released on 11 May 2026, and I am relieved to report that while governments around the world have dramatically cut aid budgets over the last 18 months, Australia has held firm on its commitments. For analysis of the impact on the disability inclusion aid budget see below.



DFAT has also released its Performance of Australian Development Cooperation Report (PADC), which incorporates changes to the DFAT's reporting on disability equity performance across the aid program to more align with the OECD DAC marker on disability. This new baseline reports performance on disability equity to 60% of the program meeting the first performance target early set in the IDEARS, as discussed below.

ADDC Secretariat's homebase Melbourne hosted Women Deliver Conference at the end of April. I attended and I enjoyed meeting with many feminists with disabilities from across the world and hearing their perspectives on the myriad of issues that affect women with disabilities. See below for more on the events that featured the perspective of women with disabilities.

In exciting ADDC news we welcomed Melinda Gabuya as the new ADDC Communications Officer in early May. Melinda comes to ADDC with experience in communications, stakeholder engagement, and program support across international organisations, including UNICEF, and consultancy experience with international non-profits based in the Philippines. It is terrific to have Melinda on board and to have the ADDC Secretariat fully staffed.

ADDC also hosted a successful webinar on disability equity and systemic change in Indonesia's financial sector, and we would like to thank ADDC Executive Committee member Fifi Rashando from Opportunity International Australia for coordinating and leading the webinar.

As always, if you have resources, reports, campaigns or projects you would like featured in our Bulletin, do contact us. We would love to hear from you.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Bloom

ADDC Executive Officer

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ADDC Webinar: Disability Equity and systemic change in Indonesia's financial sector



The banner features the ADDC logo in the top right corner. A blue box in the top left contains the word 'Webinar'. The main title is 'Disability equity and systemic change in Indonesia's financial sector'. Below the title are four circular portraits of the panelists, each with their name and title listed underneath.

Name	Title
Fifi Rashando	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Safeguarding Manager Opportunity International Australia
Tien Mulyanthi	Founder and Chair TERALA Foundation
Alfaris Amir	Head of Social Performance Management Division KSP Mitra Dhuafa (KOMIDA)
Rahmatika Febrianti	Manager MicroSave Consulting South East Asia (MSC)

On Wednesday 15 April ADDC hosted a well-attended Webinar discussing how a disability lens is opening up financial services for women with disabilities in Indonesia.

The session explored how rights-based advocacy, meaningful participation, and co-design with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) can drive systemic change in financial systems. The panellists spoke about programs promoting disability equity and provided practical insights to move towards inclusive financial ecosystems.

We would like our panellists who provided stimulating presentations and an engaging discussion:

- **Fifi Rashando** the Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Safeguarding Manager at Opportunity International Australia.
- **Tien Mulyanthi**, the founder and Chair of TERALA Foundation.
- **Alfaris Amir**, the head of the Social Performance Management Division at KSP Mitra Dhuafa (KOMIDA)
- **Rahmatika Febrianti**, a Manager at MSC (MicroSave Consulting Southeast Asia).

The link to the webinar recording is [here](#).

Meeting with the Hon Mary Aldred

ADDC's Executive Officer and Jane Edge, CEO of CBM Australia met with the Hon Mary Aldred on 27 April to encourage bipartisan support of Australian Aid. The focus of the meeting was the importance of including disability equity within Australian aid and the significant ongoing impact of continued implementation of the International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy.

The meeting focused on highlighting the disproportionate impact of poverty and exclusion on people with disabilities, and the need for Australia to grow further an ambitious, accountable and well-resourced approach to disability equity and rights in its aid program. The significant impact of disability equity funding, particularly in the Pacific, was acknowledged.

It is important that all sides of parliament work towards disability equity in aid programs, and meetings like this are an important step toward achieving that goal.

COSP (19) online side event: Deinstitutionalisation of People with Disabilities: 20 Years of the UNCRPD - From Rights on Paper to Community-Based Reality

Australian Disability Development Consortium, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) and CBM Australia are hosting an online side event at COSP 19.

The webinar will focus on the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as a critical opportunity not only to celebrate progress, but to reflect that despite the CRPD's clear articulation of rights, including equality before the law, institutionalisation remains a lived reality for many persons with disabilities globally.

Institutional models continue to restrict autonomy, perpetuate segregation, and enable coercive practices that are inconsistent with CRPD principles. This challenge is particularly pronounced for people with psychosocial, intellectual, and cognitive disabilities. Research from the Asia and Pacific region highlights that individuals with psychosocial disabilities continue to experience exclusion, denial of decision-making rights, and limited access to inclusive services, often reinforced by institutional legacies and outdated legislation.

At the same time, there is growing momentum globally and regionally to advance deinstitutionalisation as a central CRPD implementation priority. However, this agenda remains complex, under-resourced, and inconsistently understood, often framed as a completed reform rather than an ongoing structural transformation. This side event responds to this gap by positioning deinstitutionalisation not as a historical issue, but as a contemporary and urgent human rights priority, requiring coordinated action across legal, policy, and service systems.

Speakers include:

- Transitioning Communities for Inclusion (TCI) Global
- Psychiatric Survivors Fiji
- CBM Australia
- The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Details of the event

Date: Wednesday 10th June 2026 (New York) / Thursday 11th June 2026 (Melbourne)

Time: 4:45pm to 6:00pm (New York time) / 6:45am to 8:00am (Melbourne time)

Format: Online via zoom

Register [here](#).



Person wearing a blue "GAPS – together as equals" shirt sits on a patterned floor with a crutch nearby, while a group of people gather and share food in a hall behind them.

Federal Budget 2026-2027

The Federal Budget was a positive step forward for advancing disability equity and rights through Australia's aid program, with the Disability Inclusion Fund increasing by \$1million to now \$16 million annually for 2026–27 financial year.

ADDC welcomes this growing investment and notes that Disability Inclusion Fund continues to focus on partnership with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). This commitment is critical. Development is most effective when people with disabilities are actively shaping priorities, design and delivery.

ADDC also acknowledges the government's commitment to hold the line on the official development assistance (ODA) in the face of global cuts. The total ODA budget estimate in FY2026-27 is an increase of \$112 million, on the previous year. This reflects the Government's commitment to increase development spending by 2.5% year-on-year indexation.

However, when adjusted for inflation, the ODA budget has decreased slightly in real terms and is set to flatline over the forward estimates. The increased investment in the Indo-Pacific is a practical investment in regional stability, health security, and shared prosperity.

ADDC is an active member of the Safer World for All campaign who has led a targeted call to ensure Australian Aid is protected in the lead up to this Budget. Although this budget holds the line on aid, it equates to 0.63% of the overall Budget. At a time of escalating global conflict, worsening climate impacts and growing food insecurity driven by the fuel crisis, Australia's investment in aid is well below that 1% of the Federal Budget, sought by Safer World for All.

Safer World For All media release here: [At a time when global aid is going backwards, Australia holding the line matters - Safer World For All](#)



Two people standing side by side and smiling: Jose Maria Viera, Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance, and Kathryn Bloom, Executive Officer at ADDC.

DFAT releases Performance of Australian Development Cooperation Report

DFAT released its Performance of Australian Development Cooperation Report (PADC) report on 22 April. The report summarises the performance of Australia's development cooperation from July 2024 to June 2025, and outlines progress in implementing the International Development Policy's Performance and Delivery Framework.

The report includes a revised reporting structure which reflects an integration with the OECD DAC marker on disability. Consequently, the reporting is not directly referable to previous reporting and performance on Disability Equity.

The new reporting structure in the PADC report establishes a baseline of 60% effective performance on Disability Equity in 2024-25, meeting the first of the performance targets set in the International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy (IDEARS).

ADDC welcomes progress toward the 70% effective performance on Disability by 2030, the second target set with the introduction of IDEARS in November 2024.

Melbourne hosts Women Deliver 26-30 April 2026

In the final week of April Women Deliver 2026 was regionally hosted by the Oceanic Pacific, in Melbourne, the first time the conference has been hosted in the Oceanic Pacific region.

It is the largest gender equality conference in the sector and it brought together governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector to strategise on a shared vision for a world that centres gender equality.

The conference brought together over 6000 people from across the globe, with a strong disability representation and visibility of women with disabilities.

Highlights included a full day pre-conference session organised by Women Enabled which provided an inclusive, accessible space for women and girls with disabilities and gender-diverse people with disabilities to convene, connect, and build power together.



On the Wednesday of the conference feminist changemakers gathered for a Gender and Disability Solidarity Meet-up, raising posters and voices to reflect on disability justice. Despite the positive energy engendered by collective action, the conference did highlight ongoing barriers to meaningful accessibility and inclusion for women with disabilities, particularly in the drafting of the Melbourne Declaration produced by the Women Deliver Conference 2026.

Members of the ADDC Executive Committee, CBM Australia, Fred Hollows Foundation and IWDA, were represented in side events. ADDC also took the opportunity to meet with global and regional OPD leaders including Jose Maria Viera (IDA), Maulani Rotsinulu (ASEAN Disability Forum) and Sainimili Tawake (PDF).



Two people sit outside a building with crutches beside them, smiling and talking near an open window.

Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

The 19th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD COSP19) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9-11 June 2026, with the Civil Society Forum on 8 June 2026.

Marking 20 years since the adoption of the CRPD, COSP 19 will provide a key global forum for governments, OPDs, civil society and other stakeholders to review progress, share good practice and set priorities for the next phase of implementation in a rapidly changing world.

The overarching theme, "CRPD at 20: celebrating and consolidating achievements and shaping the next phase of implementation in a changing world," will guide discussions across three roundtables: creating a world free from exploitation, violence and abuse for all persons with disabilities; strengthening resilient care and support systems to promote empowerment, autonomy and independent living; and advancing from participation to genuine representation by enhancing accessible civic engagement, leadership and advocacy in political and public life.

Pacific nominations to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The election of members of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the 2027–2030 term will take place at the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD. This is the body that oversees the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

There have been two Pacific nominations to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Government of the Republic of Palau has officially nominated Ms. Villaney Remengesau for election to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the 2027–2030 term. For more information see [here](#). The Samoan government has nominated disability rights advocate Mataafa Faatino Utumapu. Please see [here](#) for more information about Mataafa Faatino Utumapu and the nomination.

Pacific Resilience Fund Treaty comes into force

A milestone in climate justice in the Pacific was reached on 6 May when the Fijian and Australian governments formally ratified of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF). This reflects years of regional leadership and collaboration through the [Pacific Islands Forum](#) to create a financing mechanism designed by and for Pacific communities to combat the impacts of climate change. The ratification of the Treaty was accompanied by a commitment of \$25 million for 2026-27 financial year in the Australian Federal Budget.

People with disabilities are significantly affected by climate change, yet too often excluded from planning, decision-making, and resource allocation. The PRF presents an important opportunity to change that by embedding disability equity into how resilience is defined, funded and delivered across the region from the outset. There's no climate justice without disability justice.

Find more information on the ratification of the Pacific Resilience Fund Treaty by the Fijian and Australian governments [here](#).

Report on CRPD Committee's 34th session

IDA has provided a summary of the key substantive outcomes of the of the CRPD Committee's 34th session in their first issue of CRPD Pulse.

The publication provides information about the CRPD Committee's recent work and in this edition about the 34th session of the CRPD Committee which led to key advances, the establishment of a new working group and planning for the Convention's 20th anniversary. Outcomes and further details are available at the provided links in the publication.

[You can view it here.](#)

Guide for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities: Driving Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities through Health System Strategies

The International Disability Network has released Guide for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities- Driving Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities through Health System Strategies. The resource has been developed within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and aligned with the [World Health Organization's](#) Guide for Action, this resource aims to support OPDs in turning global commitments into practical change at the national level.

The guide includes:

- Key advocacy priorities for disability-inclusive health policies and governance
- Practical steps for OPD participation in health planning, implementation, and monitoring
- Suggested indicators to track progress on health equity
- Questions OPDs can raise with health authorities
- A model advocacy letter to support national-level action
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The guide can be found [here](#).

Report on Disability Support in Papua New Guinea

A new Development Policy Centre report, produced with the PNG Institute of National Affairs, reveals the current state of disability support in Papua New Guinea, identifying key barriers and emerging opportunities for improvement.

The report recommends the enactment and implementation of the Disability Act, investment in inclusive infrastructure and services, empowering disabled persons' organisations, funding disability inclusion and challenging stigma through awareness campaigns.

Read the full report [here](#)



CRPD calls for comments on draft documents

The CRPD Committee has published a call for comments on three draft documents, as follows:

- Draft General Comment on article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (right of persons with disabilities to participation in political and public life),
- Draft Guidelines on identifying and addressing intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and
- Draft Guidelines on identifying and addressing disability-based violence

The word limit for each submission is 4000 words/13 pages, and the deadline is **June 15, 2026**.

Please see the link below for detailed background information and submission requirements.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2026/call-inputs-draft-general-comment-article-29-convention-rights-persons>

Disability Rights International survey request

Disability Rights International (DRI) is working on a project to strengthen disability advocacy around the world – especially for children and adults detained in orphanages, psychiatric hospitals or other institutions. The information about people who live in institutions is often incorrect or not collected at all.

DRI, with assistance from International Disability Alliance (IDA) will be offering training and support to improve how information is collected. This is especially important for people with disabilities and organisations representing them (OPDs). DRI is asking organisation engaged in helping people with disabilities or advancing human rights in any way, to fill out the survey (available in multiple languages).

The survey will help DRF understand what support is needed to collect better information. Organizations of persons with disabilities without previous experience in collecting information are also welcome to fill in the survey.

Find out more information about the survey [here](#).



Webinar on Disability Statistics: Mapping and Assessing Progress Against Global and Regional Frameworks: A Focus on the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023 - 2032

This webinar is organised by the Pacific Group on Disability Statistics (PGDS), in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC), UN ESCAP and SIAP.

Across the Pacific region, countries are committed to multiple global, regional and national frameworks related to disability inclusion, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the [Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023–2032](#) (Jakarta Declaration), and the Pacific Regional Framework on the Right of Persons with Disabilities.

These commitments come with associated reporting requirements, with varied degrees of alignment across indicators, expectations and timelines. While the frameworks are closely related, countries continue to face challenges in understanding how they align, what indicators can be derived from available data and how official statistics can be used to support monitoring and reporting.

The webinar aims to strengthen understanding of how global and regional disability frameworks, particularly the Jakarta Declaration, can be applied in the Pacific context. It will support participants in using disability statistics to monitor progress, align reporting efforts, and inform inclusive policies and programmes, while also providing a platform for sharing country experiences and practical approaches. Download the [concept note](#).

Details of the event

Date: Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Time: 2:00pm to 3:30pm (Fiji Time)

Format: Online, MS Teams

Register here:

[Registration Form: Webinar on Disability Statistics](#)



COSP online side event: Centering youth, women and gender diverse communities of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the deinstitutionalization agenda

This event has been organized by Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI-Global) is supported by the Disability Rights Fund and in partnership with Center for Independent Living Kathmandu, Women Enabled International, Korean Disability Forum, CRPD Committee and the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalization. The session will focus on a discussion on centering youth, women, and gender-diverse communities of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the Deinstitutionalization agenda in the context of 20 years of CRPD.

Through this event, we explore how intersectional groups understand and define deinstitutionalization, the ways grassroots networks have resisted and prevented institutionalization in their contexts, and the good practices that have emerged from these efforts.

The discussion will also be informed by a “Call to Action” recently developed by TCI members and will be launched at the side-event. We aim to bring together allied movements and other multiple stakeholders including state parties, multilateral agencies, donors, and human rights organizations, for a collective action for inclusion of intersectional groups.

Details of the event:

Date: 9 June 2025

Time: 10:00 AM EST

Format: Online via Zoom

Register here:

[Centering youth, women and gender diverse communities of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the deinstitutionalization agenda](#)

ACFID National Conference 2026: October 12

ACFID National Conference 2026 will bring the sector together in Canberra to share ideas, challenge thinking, and strengthen collaboration.

With the theme Mobilising the Collective: Reshaping Systems for a Just Future, the conference is your moment to connect, get inspired, and be part of shaping what's next for the sector.

Explore more information on conference, program details, accommodation options and more [here](#).

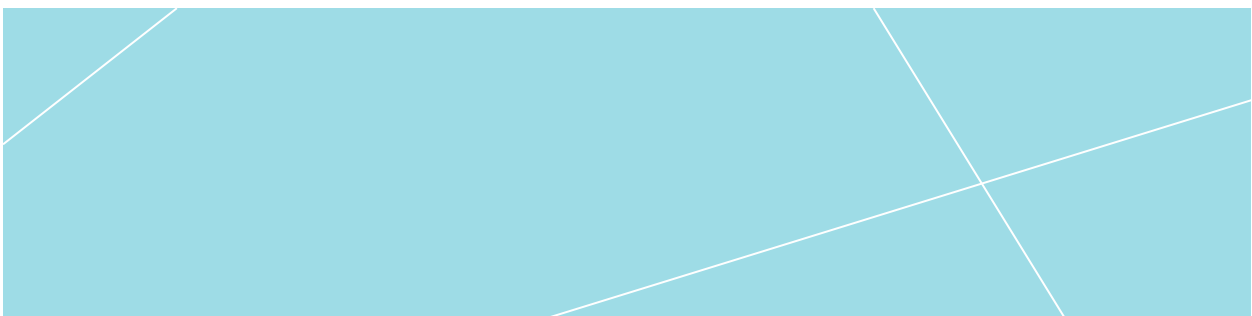
Register your ticket [here](#).

Volunteer Deaf Advocacy and Empowerment Mentor: Wangsel Institute for the Deaf, Bhutan

This role is for a Deaf Advocacy and Empowerment Mentor who can live and volunteer for 8 months in Bhutan.

- This assignment seeks to create empowering opportunities for deaf people by upskilling them in self, individual and systematic advocacy
- This assignment is seeking for a deaf person who can be a role model to the deaf community and be fluent in at least one sign language
- As a volunteer, you will support the local Deaf communities to identify skills and practices to become deaf role models within the Deaf community and more broadly in Bhutan

Applications close on 3 June. You can read more about the position [here](#).



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.

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.

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 contained within the Bulletin.

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Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

Advancing disability inclusion in Australia's international development work