# ADDC Bulletin: December 2024 edition

Monthly wrap up of disability equity news & resources

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Welcome to our December edition.

The Australian Government's launch of the International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy marks a significant milestone for disability equity within the Australian aid program. This transformative strategy sets a bold vision for equity and prioritizes partnerships with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) as well as supporting movement building. It also establishes performance targets to drive progress on disability equity across international and humanitarian efforts – a first for disability equity in Australia’s international engagements. Notably, the strategy includes a strong commitment to addressing the pre-conditions for inclusion and investing in assistive technology. The announcement of $12 million over four years for assistive technology in the Indo-Pacific region is a critical win—exactly what we were advocating for! See ADDC and ACFID’s media release [here](https://www.addc.org.au/media-release/sector-welcomes-new-development-strategy-advancing-disability-equity-2).

This landmark achievement wouldn’t have been possible without your advocacy and the dedication of Australian Ministers, the Hon Penny Wong and the Hon Pat Conroy. Let’s join together in thanking them for their leadership on disability equity and rights – see [here](#ThankingMinisters).

Looking ahead to next year, we are excited to invite you to a webinar on Tuesday 28 January 2025 co-hosted with the World Health Organization (WHO) on health equity for people with disabilities. This event will dive into WHO’s *Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities* and the recently released *Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities – Guide for Action*. To join us at this webinar see [here](#WHOWebinar).

Lastly, after seven years of dedicated service, Kerryn Clarke, ADDC's Executive Officer, will be stepping down from her role with us. Kerryn has been instrumental in driving ADDC’s mission, championing disability equity across the Australian international development sector, and strengthening partnerships with diverse stakeholders. Her unwavering commitment, strategic leadership, and passion for equity and inclusion have left an indelible mark on ADCC and its members. On behalf of the ADDC network, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Kerryn for her incredible contributions and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours. If you, or know someone who would be interested in the Executive Officer role - see [here.](#EOEOI)

We would also like to thank Lisa Johnson from the Fred Hollows Foundation, who has been elected by the ADDC Executive Committee and has accepted the role of Deputy Chair of ADDC.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas for those who celebrate, a lovely break over the New Year and look forward to championing disability equity with you in 2025.

In solidarity,

Linda Munoz

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Kerryn Clarke

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# ADDC NEWS

## Invitation: Join us for a webinar on health equity for people with disabilities

Join us on Tuesday 28th January from 2 to 3:30pm AEDT to discuss the [Global Report](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063600) and [Toolkit](https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/379479) with World Health Organisation (WHO) leads on health equity and representatives of Organisations of People with Disabilities as well as ministries of Health in our region implementing health equity initiatives.

Live captioning will be provided at the event. Other accommodations upon request.

Speakers include Darryl Barrett & Emma Pearce, Disability Team, WHO leads on health equity as well as representatives of Organisations of People with Disabilities and from the Ministries of Health in Nepal and the Solomon Islands who are implementing health equity initiatives.

Register now [here](https://www.addc.org.au/event/invitation-health-equity-for-people-with-disabilities-webinar).

## Acknowledging Ministers Penny Wong and Pat Conroy

With the release of the [International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy](https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/publications/australias-international-disability-equity-and-rights-strategy-advancing-equity-transform-lives) (IDEARS), we came together to acknowledge Senators Penny Wong and Pat Conroy for taking an ambitious stand on disability equity and rights.

We want to thank them for their ambition in ensuring Australia’s international development and humanitarian program will include people with disabilities and the accountability that comes with clear targets, including seeing disability in 70% of programming by 2030, as well as their commitment of $12m to assistive technology (AT) in the Indo-Pacific, a measure that will unlock catalytic change for millions of people with disabilities in our region.

IDEARS gives a central role for people with disabilities and was made possible through extensive consultation and a willingness to listen and change.

These actions show our neighbours that Australia values them and their people and wants to work together in the region.

Join us in thanking Minister Wong and Minister Conroy for their bold commitment to disability equity in IDEARS [here](https://www.cbm.org.au/about-us/what-we-do/advocacy/sign-the-digital-thank-you-card-to-ministers-wong-and-conroy?srsltid=AfmBOoqgMCL8QFLYxoxKCuVA5lC2LaKqgi4imFrzVWfx1jnj5oWpSbwE).

## Expression of Interest: ADDC Executive Officer

*Are you or someone you know interested in a unique opportunity to lead impactful advocacy efforts for disability equity in the Australian international development sector?* If so ADDC will be seeking a new Executive Officer in early 2025.

The Executive Officer plays a central role in driving the development, structure, and strategic direction of ADDC in partnership with the [ADDC Executive Committee](https://www.addc.org.au/about-us/meet-our-committee). The role also includes managing the ADDC Support Officer and maintaining collaborative relationships with government agencies, international development organisations, and other key stakeholders.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, please email People and Culture at CBM Australia to request the link to the job advertisement when it is online in early January 2025. The role is based in Melbourne, Australia. Candidates must have the right to work in Australia. Please share this opportunity widely with your networks. Note, CBM Australia hosts ADDC’s secretariat team.

Join us in shaping a world where disability equity is at the heart of Australian international development efforts. We look forward to connecting with you.

Email CBMA’s People and Culture to receive the job advert in the new year here.

# ****IN THE NEWS****

Pacific-Australian Emerging Leaders Summit

Disability equity was front and center at the annual Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit in Canberra. CBM, the Pacific Disability Forum and the Pacific Council of Churches supported three young people with disabilities to discuss disability equity during the crucial last sitting days of Parliament. They joined a delegation of young people from 16 Pacific countries alongside Australian First Nations, diaspora and other citizens to share stories and advocate, grounded in cross-cultural understandings of our shared Pacific region. The group met with 47 MPs with the support of DFAT, discussing Australia’s role as signatory to the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific* Continent.

Ulamila Biudole of Fiji Disabled Peoples’ Federation spoke with Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong, Nafitali Bai of Fiji Spinal Injury Association met with Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific Michael McCormack, and intellectual disability advocate Tiare took four meetings, including with Senator Jordan Steele-John. All spoke of their experiences of barriers and enablers, and advocated for the inclusion of disability equity at every level of policy and action. At the heart of these conversations is the vision of a united Pacific—strengthened by solidarity that leaves no-one behind in the region.

Read more about Pacific-Australian Emerging Leaders Network [here](https://www.micahaustralia.org/take-action/apac-young-leaders/).

## Celebrating International Day of People with Disabilities

International Day of People with Disabilities is an opportunity to celebrate and elevate the voices of people with disabilities and acknowledge the vital contributions they make within their communities. This year, ‘International Day of People with Disabilities’ brought together disability advocates from around Australia to share an important message of amplifying disability leadership to create a sustainable, inclusive future, for everyone.

Watch this year’s International Day of People with Disabilities Ambassadors [here](https://www.idpwd.com.au/).

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

# Disability equity and rights: Challenges, opportunities and ways forward for inclusive development

Just over 15 years ago, the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals aligned global development objectives with commitments made 10 years earlier in the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The SDGs represented a commitment by governments and development stakeholders to leave no one behind and end poverty in all forms.

Beyond the halfway point of the SDGs, experts from CBM Australia and Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne reflect on the challenges and opportunities they see for realising equity and rights for people with disabilities by 2030. Their impressive essay collection covers a range of topics from early childhood development to the role of Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs).

Read more [here.](https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/nossal-institute-for-global-health/Disability-Equity-and-Rights)

## Pacific Disability Forum: Preconditions Issues Papers

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) have developed aseries of policy briefs on each of the preconditions in their framework: accessibility, AT, support services, non-discrimination, community-based inclusive Education (CBID) and social protection. The series also includes a paper outlining the preconditions framework, particularly as applied and used by PDF in the Pacific context.

PDF has long advocated that to achieve full equity and rights for people with disabilities, there needs to be increased and intentional focus on addressing systemic barriers and lack of supports that prevent people with disabilities from participating equally with others.  At PDF we call such policies and programs ‘Preconditions to Inclusion’. We outline the Preconditions to Inclusion as an interwoven framework addressing assistive technology, support services, community-based inclusive development, accessibility, social protection and non-discrimination.

We have prepared this series of Issues Papers to assist the sector’s understanding of:

* What PDF’s Preconditions to Inclusion framework is and why it is important.
* What is involved under each of precondition areas, within the Pacific context.

The current progress regarding each of the precondition areas in the Pacific.

Key issues in the Pacific under each of the precondition areas, for stakeholders to consider if we are to achieve full rights and equity for persons with disabilities in our region.

The development of these issues papers has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with technical support from CBM Australia Inclusion Advisory Group.

Read the papers [here.](https://pacificdisability.org/resources/)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Webinar on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities: Tuesday 28th January

ADDC look forward to hosting with WHO a webinar on health equity for people with disabilities on Tuesday 28th January 2025, 2pm-3.30pm AEDT. In the webinar, we will explore the core concepts and key findings from the Global Report, as well as discuss strategies, tools and resources to support health equity and health systems strengthening.

Register here.

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Programme Management, Coordination, and Technical Support for implementing “Scaling Up AT and Related Rehabilitation Services for School-aged Children in Selected Pacific Countries”

AT Scale | Call for Proposals

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/253071).

# 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 per cent of Aboriginal Australians live with a disability or a long-term, restricting health condition. They are 2.1 times more likely to live with a disability 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.