

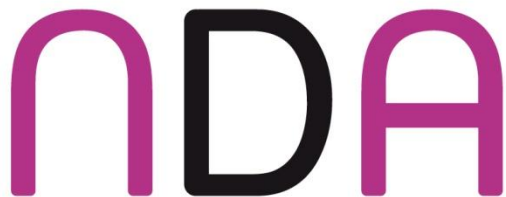
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# **The National Disability Strategy - and towards a comprehensive employment strategy**

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# Pervasive inequality – in boom times

## How Far towards Inequality (NDA 2005)

### People with disabilities were:

- less likely to have achieved any qualifications
- less likely to have a job
- earned less when in work
- twice as likely to live in poverty
- less likely to be married or in a relationship
- more likely to experience poor health
- more likely to live with parents well into adulthood
- more likely to live in care
- more likely to have problems with public transport
- less likely to have a computer or the internet
- less likely to socialise outside the home
- less likely to take an annual holiday

# National Disability Strategy

- First announced 2004
  - Core elements:
    - Disability legislation
    - Sectoral Plans on disability by six Government Departments
    - New funding for disability services 2004-9
  - Joined-up approach across Departments
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# Disability legislation

- Disability Act 2005
    - Statutory assessment of need
    - Public services, information, premises accessible to people with disabilities
    - Sectoral Plans on disability – 6 Departments
    - 3% target in public service a legal requirement
  - EPSEN Act – education + special needs
  - Citizen Info Act – advocacy services
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# Sectoral Plans

- Communications, Environment, Employment, Social welfare, Health, Transport
- Set out programme of action, endorsed by Oireachtas
- Reported on twice yearly to oversight group

# Cross-departmental cooperation a legal requirement

- Transport – Depts of Environment and Transport
- Employment – Depts of Enterprise, Social protection, Health
- Housing – Dept of Health, local authorities

# Highlights

- Accessible public transport
  - Streets/footpaths and public places
  - Employment strategy (not yet in place)
  - Housing Strategy (published 2011)
  - Strategic reviews in disability services
    - Value for Money and Policy review
    - HSE reviews – closing institutions; children's services; adult day services; autism; neuro-rehabilitation
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# National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan

- New impetus to National Disability Strategy
- Will go wider than 6 Depts
- Incorporate work re UN Convention
- Incorporate programme re attitudes
- Focus on realistic outputs and achieving implementation
- Expected to cover to end 2015



# NDS Implementation Group

- Officials, disability reps + NDA, chaired by Minister
- Solution-focused to advance implementation
- Disability reps – umbrella bodies + individuals with lived experience of disability
- Report to cabinet ctte on social policy

# Framework

- Equal citizens
- Independence, choice and control
- Participation
- Maximise potential