

No Child Left Out: Designing Thriving Kids for a Diverse Australia

What is the NCDRC?

The National Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Disability Reform Committee brings together a network of services, peak bodies and community organisations across Australia to provide collective input to inclusive disability reform and advocate for multicultural communities.

What's at risk

51% of Australians are first or second-generation migrants, but only 10% of NDIS participants are culturally diverse

50% of CALD children are less likely to access early intervention and up to 80% more likely to experience developmental vulnerability without support

Without targeted early intervention, today's oversight becomes tomorrow's failure



What's getting in the way

- Language, communication and cultural barriers
- Complex systems and low digital literacy
- Eligibility constraints (including visa factors)
- Stigma, fear, and mistrust of services
- Socio-economic disadvantage
- Limited awareness of available services



What works

- Multilingual, culturally safe information and education led by lived experience
- Deep cultural understanding, shaping responsive support and identifying service gaps
- Strong referral pathways and connections between government and communities

Culturally capable services are critical to system success and equitable access

What's needed



Establish CALD Advisory Committees to guide the program's governance, design, implementation and evaluation

Genuine representation in the consultation process means stronger insights and better outcomes



Commission culturally diverse organisations in the service mix

Multilingual workers and strong cultural networks build trust, simplify access and referral pathways, and promote a sustainable industry



Invest in program infrastructure for culturally inclusive service delivery

Interpreters, workforce planning, and communication resources tailored to CALD audiences ensures no-one gets left behind

What this delivers



Earlier identification and support for children



Increased access and participation



Stronger outcomes for families and communities



A fair and effective system that meets real needs

Embed CALD voices, expertise and leadership at the centre of Thriving Kids reform