

## What is the problem?

People with disability experience significant **inequality in social and economic outcomes** compared to the rest of the population.



## What is the driver?

This inequality is not because of a person's disability but rather the structural barriers that prevent their participation in social and economic life – inaccessible spaces and practices, negative attitudes, and poverty. Collectively, these systemic barriers create **social exclusion**.

### Gaps in government responses

The current government response to disability is focused on enabling access to support services (via the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which is a service delivery system).

There is no concerted focus on breaking down systemic barriers to inclusion.

### A major philanthropic shortfall

People with disability comprise 18% of the population, but received only 4.3% of philanthropic funding in 2017-18.

In proportional terms, this is a significant under investment.

a. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *People with disability in Australia*, 2022.

b. Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research, *Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey*, 2022.

# Unleashing Australia's potential by addressing disability inclusion.

By uplifting social inclusion for people with disability to a level equal to the rest of the population, Australia could unlock close to \$84.2 billion per annum in collective economic and social benefits.



# \$84.2b

p.a. in benefits.

This includes:

#### Improved health and wellbeing outcomes

The difference in quality of life relative to people without disability could close by one-third.

## \$57.0b

#### Improved labour market outcomes

One in five people with disability currently unemployed could find employment. And one in six people working less hours than they desire could be fully employed.

## \$25.6b

#### Improved education outcomes

The difference in years of education relative to people without disability could reduce by one-fourth.

## \$1.7b

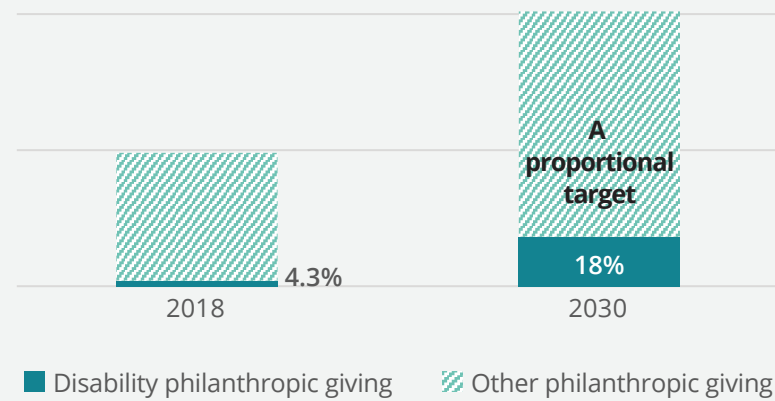
Note: Benefits sum to more than total benefits due to rounding

## Philanthropy's role in fostering disability-inclusion

Unlocking the \$84.2 billion annual disability-inclusion dividend is a major opportunity for philanthropy. With the volume of philanthropic funding set to double by 2030, now is the time to act.

### Action 01. | Prioritise investments in disability-inclusion initiatives.

The relative underinvestment in disability-inclusion from the philanthropic sector to date means that a disproportionate amount of the growth in Australia's philanthropic funding to 2030 should favour disability.



## Identifying initiatives for investment: what to look for



Four key areas to invest in for maximal impact:

1. **Seed funding** for new and innovative services/products.
2. Providing **sector leadership** by supporting and normalising disability-inclusive practices.
3. Research to inform an **evidence-base** in support of change.
4. **Advocacy** that seeks to influence policy or business practice.

### Action 02. | Apply a disability-inclusion lens to all investments and activities.

Philanthropists can help to remove structural barriers in more ways than just targeting investment in disability focused projects; they should champion change by applying a disability-inclusion lens to all philanthropic investments (whether related to disability or not).

## How to apply a 'disability-inclusion' lens in practice: a starting point

### Zoom in on: accessibility

Ensure accessibility of all investments. For example, when giving to the arts sector, ensure the investment goes toward an initiative with accessible spaces, events and materials.

### Zoom in on: accountability

Hold recipient organisations accountable for maintaining disability inclusive operations. As a starting point, this may include recruitment and retention practices, design of products and services, and representation of people with disability in media or marketing.