

Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities



Strategic Plan January 2021 – December 2023

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1. Introduction

Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc. was formed in 1981 by producers and users of braille, audio, large print and other materials in accessible formats in Australia and New Zealand.

Our aim is to achieve:

- greater co-operation, cohesion and collaboration between producers;
- common production standards for the industry;
- a joint voice for the industry in its dealings with other organisations, including Government agencies at national, state and local levels as well as those in the public, not-for-profit and private sectors; and
- best use of resources so that there is little or no duplication of effort.

Since its formation, the Round Table has been able to set Trans-Tasman standards for transcription of print material into a range of accessible formats, and it has been a vehicle for negotiation with government, and other industry bodies, on matters such as copyright, subsidies and production standards.

Round Table now comprises over 30 organisational members in Australia and New Zealand. We are also open to membership from organisations in other Australasian countries. Members include major producers, distributors and consumer groups.

2. Vision

That all published information is available to all people with a print disability in Australasia at the same time and the same cost as other people and in the format most suited to them, and that producers, as a matter of course, apply the concepts of Born Accessible and Universal Design when creating content.

3. Mission

To facilitate and influence the production and use of quality alternative formats for people with a print disability. We achieve this by setting and communicating standards, encouraging cooperation and information sharing.

4. Strategic Objectives

Aligned with the Vision and Mission, Round Table has set five strategic objectives, which are embedded in its Constitution and inform the scope for this Strategic Plan.

- Fostering a spirit of cooperation and resource sharing among members.
- Setting standards and improving the range and accessibility of materials produced.
- Providing for consultation and/or action on matters of common concern.
- Representing the collective views of members to appropriate bodies.
- Fostering consumer consultation.

5. Current Strategic Priorities

In the following table, we list the priorities for Round Table's programme of work from 2021 until 2023. These are guided by our overarching strategic objectives, supporting the Australian government's National Disability Strategy (NDS) and the New Zealand Disability strategy, which seek to foster an inclusive society.

Some will attempt to meet just one of those objectives, while others may address more than one. The priorities also reflect the specific issues relevant to print disability and access to information in the period covered by this strategic plan. Not surprisingly, many are carried over from previous strategic plans, as work on them continues. These either are worded as before, or have been re-worded to reflect the passage of time and, often, success along the road.

The second column contains examples of how each priority might be worked on. It is not intended to be comprehensive, nor is it a blueprint to how we will work in the period covered by the plan. It is there to provide examples of how we might. Specific activities will always be determined by the Executive Committee and, ultimately, the Round Table membership in General Meeting.

Round Table Priority	Example of work to deliver priority
Raise awareness of the accessibility requirements of all people with print disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to government organisations that set standards and influence the production of digital content. • Form strategic partnerships with national and international organisations to promote the accessibility requirements of people with print disabilities. • Promote Round Table activities to the wider sector to ensure that the needs of people with print disabilities are understood. • Promote existing and new initiatives, which increase access to information. • Highlight good and bad examples of accessible information and work with providers to improve their output.
Hold an annual conference to foster shared learning and networking across the sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference held in different locations each year. • Expand the use of virtual conferences and virtual components to face-to-face conferences. • Attendees canvassed on preferences for future conference themes.
Produce and refresh accessible information guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with rolling programme of guidelines updates. • Endorse and promote guidelines produced by other organisations, which align to Round Table thinking.
Promote braille standards and usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise and resource the work of the Australian Braille Authority and support the work of the Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust. • Produce publications and promote events and activities, which encourage the wider take-up of braille and increased quality production of braille materials. • Encourage increased take-up and production of braille music notation and services by highlighting examples of good practice and publicising opportunities.

Round Table Priority	Example of work to deliver priority
Ensure Round Table and its members hear the voice of consumers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase interaction with consumer organisations in Australia and New Zealand. • Support individual consumers to attend annual conference through the DSS grant or other appropriate mechanisms. • Enable full participation of the consumer representative on the Round Table Executive Committee.
Promote ongoing research and resourcing of new ways to make graphical information accessible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise and resource the work of the Australia New Zealand Accessible Graphics Group (ANZAGG).
Champion the concept of Born Accessible as a means of transforming the amount of accessible content published in Australia and New Zealand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work alongside organisations such as the Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative and its members, the Publishers Association of New Zealand, the DAISY Consortium and others to move us to a point where born accessible becomes the preferred option rather than the unusual. • Support research on the status of accessible publishing and the barriers faced by publishers and alternative format producers.
Recruit new members to Round Table, particularly in the library and tertiary education sectors, while making membership for existing organisations even more attractive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with public library organisations to increase access to collections and greater co-operation which benefits print disabled readers. • Work more closely with disabled students and disability advisers within the tertiary education sector.

Round Table Priority	Example of work to deliver priority
Support initiatives, which speed up the full implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty throughout Australasia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage full monitoring systems be put in place to ensure that the treaty is being properly implemented. • Highlight examples where the treaty has led to increased accessible content, which would not have been possible without it. • Encourage representatives of rights-holders and other copyright-related organisations to contribute to discussions at Round Table conferences and to become active round Table members. • Publish position statements on copyright reforms proposed by the Australian and New Zealand governments, which support access to information by people with a print disability.
Make submissions in response to policy proposals by Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align our submissions, where possible, with those of member organisations to strengthen the voice of our sector. • Promote the needs of people with a print disability when commenting on Government plans in the fields of education, copyright, library provision and other relevant topics. • Offer Round Table as a vehicle to promote a sector-wide point of view where appropriate.
Promote the availability and take-up of accessible, affordable technology by people with a print disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share developments and information about affordable technology with members through our website, newsletters and at conference. • Link to information from other organisations, which highlights the availability of, or research into new affordable technology.