

**Round Table on Information Access
for People with Print Disabilities**



**Strategic Plan
January 2024 – December 2026**

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1. Introduction

Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc. (Round Table) was formed in 1981 by national and state libraries, and producers and users of braille, audio, large print and other materials in accessible formats in Australia. Over the last 40 years, the membership of the Round Table has expanded to include, apart from alternative format producers, consumer and disability organisations, also library, education and technology sectors, the publishing industry and others from Australia and New Zealand.

2. Vision

To ensure that all published information is simultaneously accessible to people with print disability in Australasia, at an equivalent cost, and in their preferred format, and that producers apply the concepts of Born Accessible and Universal Design principles when creating content.

3. Mission

To facilitate and influence the production and use of quality alternative formats for people with print disability. We achieve this by advocacy and consultation, setting and communicating guidelines, supporting research, encouraging collaboration 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. Strategic Goals

Following are the goals for Round Table's program of work from 2024 until 2026. 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.

Advocacy and Consultation

Ensure that the Round Table and its members hear the voice of consumers.

- Expand the Round Table membership.
- Increase interactions with consumer organisations in Australia and New Zealand.
- Support individual consumers to attend annual conference through grant funding or sponsorships.

Raise awareness of the accessibility requirements of people with print disability.

- Connect with government organisations that set standards and influence the production of digital content.
- Respond to policy proposals that impact people with print disabilities.
- Form strategic partnerships with national and international organisations to promote the accessibility requirements of people with print disability.
- Promote the Round Table activities to the broader community to ensure that the needs of people with print disability are understood.
- Promote the availability of technology, equipment and consumables to ensure continued support for people with print disability.
- Model best practice in physical, digital and communication accessibility.

Champion the production and discoverability of publications in accessible formats.

- Encourage increased take-up and production of braille.
- Work with the publishing industry to facilitate access to source files.
- Work alongside the publishing industry to ensure that Born Accessible publications become the standard.
- Work with the library sector and publishing industry to improve discoverability of accessible publications.

Promote digital accessibility.

- Advocate for inclusive web design.
- Champion the need to incorporate inclusive web design principles (using the current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) into relevant higher education courses and other training.

Publicise and resource the work of the Round Table subcommittees, and related organisations and initiatives that increase access to information, including:

- the Australian Braille Authority
- the Australia New Zealand Accessible Graphics Group (ANZAGG)
- the Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust
- the Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative.

Research Support

Promote ongoing research on improving access to information.

- Work with universities and other organisations on making STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) accessible.
- Support research into accessible publishing and the barriers faced by publishers and alternative format producers.

Guidelines

- Produce and review guidelines on the production of accessible formats.
- Endorse and promote guidelines produced by other organisations, which align with the Round Table objectives.
- Produce publications that encourage increased quality of braille materials.

Collaboration and Information Sharing

- Hold an annual conference to foster shared learning and networking across the sector.
- Explore the use of hybrid delivery of conferences.
- Promote relevant events and activities in the industry.
- Share information about the global trends and issues in the field of information access and technological advances.
- Expand collaborative networks with other organisations working in the area of information access.