

The logo for the National Disability Authority (NDA) features the lowercase letters 'n', 'd', and 'a' in a vibrant magenta color, and the uppercase letter 'D' in black. The letters are stylized with rounded, friendly shapes.

**National Disability Authority**  
Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais

# A national strategy for disability

**Siobhán Barron**  
**Director**



**National Disability Authority**  
Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais

# The National Disability Authority

- Independent statutory body established in 2000 by Government
- Advises Government on disability policy and practice, and Universal Design
- Focus - social model of disability
- Inclusion of disability in mainstream policy and services
- Cover all policy areas e.g. transport, health, environment, employment, income, communications

# National Disability Authority role

- Evidence-based advice to Govt on disability matters
- Research
- Codes of Practice, Standards and Guidelines
- Monitoring role - including public sector employment target
- Centre of Excellence in Universal Design



# Protection against discrimination for people with disabilities

- Employment Equality Act 1998
- Equal Status Act 2000
- Equality Act 2004
- Equality infrastructure

# National Disability Strategy (2004)

- Legislation for persons with special educational needs, 2004
- Disability Act, 2005
- Legislation (2007) to establish personal advocacy service
- Sectoral Plans - published action programmes by 6 Govt Depts
- Special multi-annual investment programme 2005/9
- Disability Proofing - legislation and policy proposals to Govt

# Disability Act 2005

- Pt 2 - Right to Independent Assessment of Health Service Needs
- Pt 3 - Accessible public buildings, services and information
- Pt 3 - 6 Govt Depts to produce and implement sectoral plans
- Pt 5 - Public Sector employment target and positive action
- Pt 6- Centre for Excellence in Universal Design

# Sectoral Plans

- disability action plans in key areas
- health, employment, social welfare, transport, communications and environment
- co-ordination across departments and agencies
- progress reports to Oireachtas
- 2006 Plans now being reviewed

# Employment

- Census 2006 showed employment rate of 35%, under half that for others
- Joblessness and poverty closely linked
- Act requires 3 departments to co-operate on employment issues – employment, health and social welfare
- Sectoral plan commits to develop a comprehensive employment strategy for people with disabilities
  - Target of +7,000 jobs by 2010
  - Target of 45% employment rate by 2016
- Must be comprehensive across range of disability

# Office for Disability and Mental Health

- Established 2008 - Minister with special responsibility
- Remit - 4 Govt Departments - Health, Education, Employment and Justice
- Ensure joined-up approach and improved co-ordination

# Implementing the Strategy

- Cabinet Committee - Taoiseach and Ministers
- Senior Level Officials in most Govt Depts
- Advice and support of NDA
- Special Committee - Officials, disability sector, NDA and Social Partners
- Progress Reports



**Thank you**

[www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie)

**nda**