Voice of Queenslanders

with Disability 2024 Report

Summary

**640** people responded to the survey

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Icon of a person walking a dog**427****Queenslanders** **with disability** | Icon of two people**188****family/carers for****people with disability** | Icon of a person using a wheelchair inside a building**25****disability****organisations** |

* **One in four** people said their life improved in the last year (24.7%).
* Nearly **one in three** people said their life was worse than last year (31.9%).
* **Cost of living** is impacting people with disability and their family/carers.
* The **most important things** to people for improving life included increasing opportunities to participate in employment, increasing financial supports, and making sure housing, transport, and support services were more inclusive.

Who participated in the survey?

* Most people said they experienced physical disability and chronic illness/pain.
* Most people had **two or more** disabilities, with the most common being chronic illness/pain which tended to co-occur with neurodivergence, neurological, physical, or psychosocial disabilities.
* Families and carers said they mostly supported people who were neurodivergent, had intellectual, physical, or sensory disabilities.
* Just over **one-fifth** of people identified as LGBTIQA+ (21.3%).
* More than **one-third** of people lived in regional, rural, or remote parts of Queensland (39%).

What has changed over the last year?

* **200 more** people participated in the survey this year compared to 2023 – there were more people from regional, rural, and remote areas in 2024 compared to 2023.
* The **average age** of family/carers was **younger** this year.
* Slightly more people (**31.9%**) felt that life was getting worse this year compared to 24% in 2023.
* There was a **7%** increase in people who said that they did not have enough paid support.
* The number of people accessing education dropped from 56% in 2023 to **30%** in 2024. The main challenge was **lack of accessibility and awareness** of disability needs, especially neurodivergence.
* **Cost of living** continued to negatively impact people with disability and family/carers.

**What is getting better:**

Of those whose life had improved:

* **One in two** had enough money.
* **One in two** had a good job.
* **Two in three** had access to safe, accessible housing.
* **Two in three** were happy.
* **One in two** were healthy.
* **One in three** had access to paid supports.
* Nearly **two in three** felt welcomed and included in community.

**The challenges:**

* Many said they were worried about the **cost of living, affordable housing, and access to connected services**.
* Over **one in three** did not live in a home that met their needs.
* Nearly **one in four** felt unsafe.
* Nearly **one in two** could not access unpaid support.

There is no single ‘voice of disability’ in Queensland.

Every person had their own unique story, and it is important that we consider all points of view and needs when designing policies and delivering services for people with disability.

**Source:** Chapman, K., Yon, A., Kendall, E. (2024). The Voice of Queenslanders with Disability. Griffith University

