The NDS Centre for Applied Disability Research (CADR) has been funded to pull together a digital collection of disability research and resources. The new ‘Disability Knowledge Clearing House’ will host links to thousands of academic and grey literature items, and will feature an assessed collection of disability research and ‘Research to Action Guides’ on priority topic areas.

Research to Action Guides will contain literature reviews and translational research resources based on the best local and international evidence.

The first Research to Action Guides will be informed by a short survey that was conducted over May and June 2016. This survey tested support for twelve Research to Action priority topic areas proposed in an explanatory Research to Action consultation paper.

149 people completed the Research to Action Survey. Most respondents identified as ‘service provider’ and ‘practitioner’. Otherwise, there was a fairly even distribution of people with disability, carers and family members, advocates, researchers and policy makers.

The survey clearly identified six priority topic areas:

1. Pathways to employment for young people with disability
2. Working collaboratively with mainstream health services towards wellbeing outcomes
3. Best practice strategies for self-advocacy
4. Supporting citizenship with person-centred active support
5. Supporting a rural and remote workforce for disability
6. Supporting the experience, expertise and knowledge of carers

The top 6 priority areas each received at least 40 votes.

In addition to the survey, the Australian Cross-Disability Alliance organisations were approached by NDS to participate in interviews regarding the Research to Action Consultation Paper and survey. Three interviews were conducted. Representatives of Children and Young People with Disability Australia, the First People’s Disability Network and People with Disability Australia discussed the views of their constituents on the proposed topic areas, formats and the Research to Action Guide process. Their comments on the top six preferred topic areas included:

- **Working collaboratively with mainstream health services toward wellbeing outcomes** is a very important and timely issue.
- **Forging pathways to employment for young people with disability** is a common challenge and all stakeholders in this journey face limitations and barriers. Access to reliable information is a key factor in addressing this.
• **Supporting citizenship with person-centred active support** is important in the context of the NDIS. Research evidence can be used to empower key actors, such as disability support workers, to promote the broader inclusion intended in the foundation of the NDIS.

• A useful **self-advocacy** resource would use research evidence to draw links from acute individual advocacy issues to the systemic barriers they reflect. Advocacy is an important part of how all research end-user groups influence their communities.

• The **experience, expertise and knowledge of carers** are often unrecognised but predominant factors of influence within the community.

Suggestions for adapting or extending the proposed topics, and for adding topics, were made. These are detailed in the Research to Action Survey Results report, which will be available on www.cadr.org.

The survey indicated that Research to Action Guides will be best received as online, mixed media resources. Important factors were:

- The ability to quickly locate what’s needed;
- Information that is concise;
- Resources that don’t explain too much, just key action points;
- Ease of applicability; and
- Full accessibility.

There is great breadth of possibility for creating Research to Action Guides that respond to these requirements.

**Next steps:** CADR has established a process for the creation of Research to Action Guides, and details on this process will be available on the new Disability Knowledge Clearing House. ‘Pilot’ Research to Action Guides on **working collaboratively with the health system** and a **rural and remote workforce for disability** are being launched in June 2016. Work has commenced on a ‘**Pathways to Employment**’ Research to Action Guide. Taking on board the survey results and other feedback, CADR will commence work on topics based on supporting the experience and knowledge of carers and self-advocacy.

From late 2016, an annual survey of disability end users will enable us to update the list of priority topic areas for research to action activities, such as Guides and events.

Research to Action Guides will be freely available on the Disability Knowledge Clearing House, at www.cadr.org.au, as they are published. More information about the Guides and feedback are also available on the website.

Contact info@cadr.org.au with your thoughts and feedback.