

Speak the Language of Accessibility

This fact sheet defines key terms used throughout the guidelines. Using consistent and inclusive language is part of respectful, accessible communication.

Glossary of Terms

Accessibility

Making things easy for everyone to use by removing barriers. It applies to content, spaces, websites, and services.

Accommodations

Changes made to support equal access. Also called “reasonable adjustments”. Can include formats, support services, or tools.

Assistive Technology

Devices and software that help people with disabilities take part in daily life. Examples: screen readers, hearing aids, Braille displays, mobility aids.

Communications and Engagement Materials

Content created to inform or involve others. Includes social media posts, flyers, training modules, emails, podcasts, etc.

d/Deaf

An umbrella term:

- Deaf (capital D): people who are culturally Deaf and use Auslan
- deaf (lowercase d): people who have hearing loss.

Disabled People / People with Disabilities

Two respectful ways of identifying:

- Identity-first: “Disabled person” = disability as a key identity.
- Person-first: “Person with disability” = personhood comes first.

FPDN uses both, depending on personal and community preference.

Mob / First Peoples / Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

All respectful terms used to refer to diverse First Nations communities. Choice of terms should reflect people’s preferences.

Reminder

Always check in with the person or community about what language they prefer.

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