# Snapshot

## Deaths in 2014-2017 of people with disability in residential care

### Major gaps in life expectancy when compared with the general population

* People in disability services died at least 25 years earlier
* People in assisted boarding houses died around 20 years earlier.

### Most of the deaths were unexpected and from natural causes.

* Respiratory diseases were the leading contributory cause of death of people in disability services
* Circulatory diseases were the leading contributory cause of death of people in assisted boarding houses.

### Our reviews of preventable deaths highlight the need for concerted action to:

* Identify illness or injury and take swift action to obtain urgent medical assistance
* Provide an effective first aid response
* Identify and effectively manage breathing, swallowing and choking risks
* Improve access to preventive health services and supports - particularly for smoking, obesity and other lifestyle risks
* Provide behaviour and other support to help to minimise aversion and resistance to health services and treatment
* Reduce risks associated with medication - including medication errors and unsafe storage
* Improve support and coordination of care in hospital
* Ensure that treatment limitation decisions are informed and not based on perceived quality of life
* Report 'near misses' and take action to prevent recurrence and death