



Disability Royal Commission

Facts and figures

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC) undertook an expansive examination of the matters affecting the lives and experiences of Australians with disability.

Background:

- The DRC was announced by then Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, on 5 April 2019.
- The DRC delivered an interim report on 30 October 2020.
- The Governor General of Australia received the final report on 28 September 2023.
- The final report was released on 29 September.
- The final report made 222 recommendations. It is made up of 12 volumes and an Executive Summary. The final report is 6,788 pages long.
- The key themes of the report include:
 - voices of people with disability
 - nature and extent of violence, abuse neglect and exploitation
 - realising the human rights of people with disability
 - achieving inclusion
 - elevating First Nations Disability Policy
 - enabling autonomy and access
 - inclusive education, employment and housing
 - criminal justice and people with disability
 - independent oversight and complaint mechanisms

Who the DRC heard from:

- 10,000 people shared their experiences with the DRC, it received input through:
 - 33 public hearings
 - 1,785 private meetings – 61% of these were with people with disability
 - 837 witness statements – 209 witnesses were people with disability
 - 7,944 submissions – 55% were from people with disability and 29% were from family members
- 17,824 phone enquiries
- 14 issues papers published
- 710 responses to issues papers
- more than 700 community engagement activities
- 12 policy roundtables and workshops

What the DRC told us:

The DRC details the prevalence of discrimination and disadvantage among various groups of people with disability. These include women and children, First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and LGBTQIA+ people.

- 55% of people with disability aged between 18 to 64 have been physically or sexually abused since the age of 15. This is comparatively higher than adults without a disability in that age group (3%).
- Life trajectories and life outcomes of people with disability can be significantly influenced by violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- An estimated 400 deaths each year of people with disability aged 20 or above are considered potentially avoidable.
- 47% of working-age people with disability are not in the labour force (a rate that has not substantially changed in 25 years).
- Violence against, and abuse, neglect or exploitation of people with disability is estimated to cost Australian society at least \$46 billion annually.

Funding:

- A total of \$599.3 million was committed to the expenditure of the DRC, including:
 - \$379.1 million to the Attorney-General’s Department (from 2018-19 to 2022-23)
 - \$165.4 million to the Department of Social Services (from 2019-20 to 2023-24)
 - \$47.8 million to the National Disability Insurance Agency (from 2019-20 to 2023-24)
 - \$7.1 million to the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission (from 2019-20 to 2023-24)
- The Government announced the establishment of the Commonwealth DRC Taskforce on 29 September 2023. \$4.25 million over 2 years has been committed to fund the Taskforce.

Timeline:

Date	Event
31 July 2024	Australian Government Response to the DRC tabled in Australian Parliament and publicly released
13 March 2024	Australian Government Progress Update on the DRC published
5 March 2024	Joint Statement on government responses to the DRC
29 September 2023	DRC final report tabled in the Australian Parliament and publicly released
15 September 2023	Ceremonial closing hearing of the DRC
30 October 2020	DRC interim report published
5 April 2019	DRC announced by then Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP