



Australian Government

Recommendations about the justice system

The Australian Government response to
the Disability Royal Commission

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Australian Government wrote this document.

When you read the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.



We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **24**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Aus-Gov-Response



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.



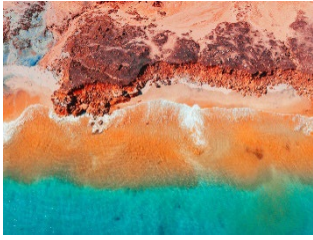
This document is quite long.

You don't need to read it all at once.

You can take your time.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia.



They were the first people to live on and use the:

- land
- waters.

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About the Disability Royal Commission



We created a **royal commission** to find out how to make our community safer for people with disability.



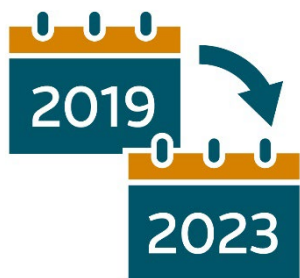
A royal commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.

It helps us work out what:

- has gone wrong
- we need to improve.



We call it the Disability Royal Commission.



The Disability Royal Commission ran from 2019 to 2023.

About the recommendations



The Disability Royal Commission shared ideas about what governments and services should change.

We call these ideas **recommendations**.



This document explains our response to Part 8 of the Disability Royal Commission's final report.



This document explains our response to recommendations about people with disability and the **justice system**.



The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law.

The justice system also includes **detention settings**.



Detention settings are places where people have to stay if they:

- have broken the law
- are waiting for a court to decide if they broke the law.

For example:



- prisons



- youth justice centres.



This document also explains our response to recommendations about people with disability and **violence**.



Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

This includes **family and domestic violence**.

Family and domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



- your partner, like your boyfriend or girlfriend
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
- someone you live with.

Our response to the recommendations

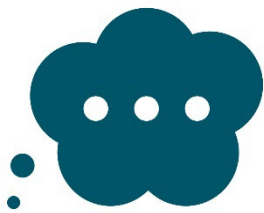
On the following pages, we explain the recommendations we:



- agree with



- mostly agree with



- need to think more about.

Recommendations about the justice system

Laws that affect people with cognitive disability who need to go to court



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about laws that affect people with **cognitive disability** who need to go to court.

A cognitive disability affects how people:



- think
- communicate
- understand
- focus on what they're doing
- remember.



The recommendation says to change the laws that keep someone with cognitive disability in prison while they wait to go to court.



The recommendation also says that people who work in the justice system need to think about what they can change to help people with cognitive disability take part in court.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Collect information



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about collecting information to find out how many people can't go to court because of a cognitive disability.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

How police respond to people with disability



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about improving how police respond to people with disability.



The recommendations also say we should change the law that protects people with disability from **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when someone treats you unfairly because of a part of who you are.



This law is called the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.



This law should protect people with disability from discrimination when they receive support from the police.



We mostly agree with the goals in these recommendations.

Recommendations about the rights of people with disability

Rights of people with disability in detention settings



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about the **rights** of people with disability in detention settings.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



The recommendation says there needs to be more training for people who check that detention settings are respecting people's rights.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Information about how courts support people with disability



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to make information clearer for people with disability so they understand their right to have support at court.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

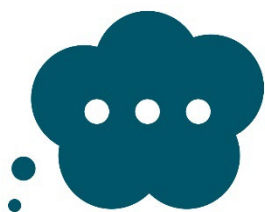
NDIS in the justice system



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) uses money from the government to help pay for services and supports for people with disability.



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about making it clearer what supports the NDIS will help pay for in the justice system.



We need to think more about this recommendation.



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to make sure people with disability can get NDIS support when they leave detention settings.



We agree with this recommendation.

Recommendations about family and domestic violence

Create a plan to keep women and children with disability safe



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to create a plan to keep women and children with disability safe from violence.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Change the laws about family and domestic violence



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to change the laws about family and domestic violence.



The recommendation says the law should include violence that people with disability experience:

- where they live
- from people who provide support to them.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

What we will pay for



We will pay to improve or create:

- programs
- supports
- services.

We will pay:



- **\$6.9 million** to look at changing the Disability Discrimination Act 1992



- **\$500,000** to create a plan to protect women and children with disability from violence.



We will pay **\$250,000** to provide information to people experiencing:

- sexual violence
- family and domestic violence.



We will make sure this information is **accessible**.



When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



We will pay **\$1.25 million** to provide information to women, girls and **gender diverse** people with disability.

A gender diverse person is someone:



- who feels like they don't fit the idea of being a man or a woman
- whose gender given to them when they were born doesn't match the gender they are.

Important actions and plans



Governments have already agreed to start working together on some important actions and plans with the disability community.



These actions and plans will support recommendations about the justice system.



We will work towards making a law that protects people from experiencing cruel punishments in the justice system.



We will work towards teaching people about protecting the rights of people with disability in detention settings.



We will check the laws that affect people with cognitive disability who need to go to court.



We will make it clearer how the NDIS and the justice system work together.



The police will create a plan to improve how they respond to people with disability.



We will keep following the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children.



We will create a plan to protect women and children with disability from violence.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Accessible

When services and information are accessible, they are easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

Cognitive disability

A cognitive disability affects how people:



- think
- communicate
- understand
- focus on what they're doing
- remember.

Detention settings



Detention settings are places where people have to stay if they:

- have broken the law
- are waiting for a court to decide if they broke the law.



Discrimination

Discrimination is when someone treats you unfairly because of a part of who you are.

Family and domestic violence

Family and domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



- your partner, like your boyfriend or girlfriend
- a member of your family
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Gender diverse

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- whose gender given to them when they were born doesn't match the gender they are.

Justice system

The justice system includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law.

Recommendations

The Disability Royal Commission shared ideas about what governments and services should change.

We call these ideas recommendations.





Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
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Royal commission

A royal commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.

It helps us work out what:

- has gone wrong
- we need to improve.



Violence

Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

Contact us



You can send us an email.

DRCResponseConsultation@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

GPO Box 9820

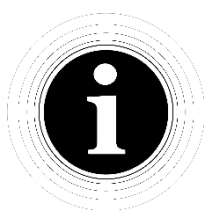
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Quote job number 5881-H.

Helen Butcher created the art on the front cover of this document.

She is an artist. Her picture is called 'Belonging'.

It is about inclusion.

She made this art for the Australian Government Response to the Disability Royal Commission.

We thank Helen for sharing her art with us.