



Australian Government

Recommendations about accessible services and decision-making

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 **36**.



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.



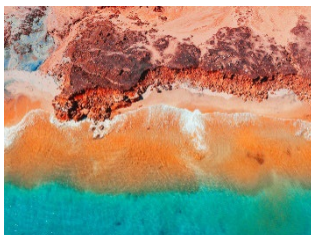
This document is quite long.

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.

What's in this document?

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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.



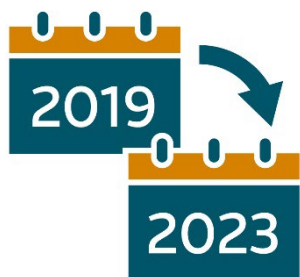
A royal commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.

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 6 of the Disability Royal Commission's final report.



This includes our response to recommendations about the **rights** of people with disability to:

- make decisions
- control their own life.



Rights are rules about how everyone must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



These recommendations include laws about **guardians**.

A guardian is someone who can make decisions for you when you can't make your own decisions.



This also includes our response to recommendations about **restrictive practices**.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



For example, if someone locks a door to stop you from leaving a room.



This also includes our response to recommendations about **accessible** services for people with disability.



When services are accessible, they are easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

Our response to the recommendations

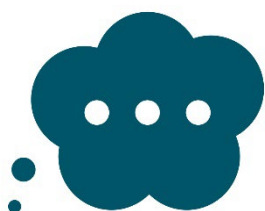
On the following pages, we explain the recommendations we:



- agree with



- mostly agree with



- need to think more about.

Recommendations about support to make decisions

Supported decision-making



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about **supported decision-making**.



Supported decision-making is when someone helps you make important decisions about your life and how you will live.



The recommendation says we should make sure laws follow the supported decision-making **principles**.



Principles are important ideas we should always think about.



For example, people must be supported to take risks if they want to.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.

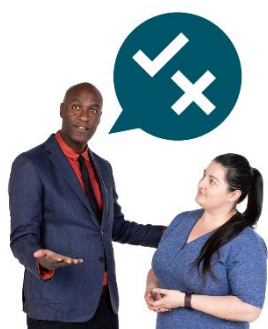


The CRPD is an agreement between different countries.

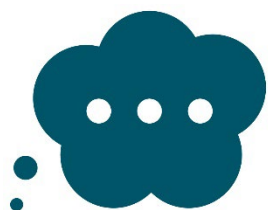
It says people with disability should have the same rights as everybody else.



The recommendation says the way we understand the CRPD should change.



For example, the recommendation says the CRPD should make sure we do not have laws that let people make decisions for people with disability.



We need to think more about this recommendation.

People who have guardians



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about people who have a guardian.



The recommendation says all governments should use the same way to collect and share information about people who have guardians.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Recommendations about restrictive practices

Using less restrictive practices



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about using less restrictive practices.



The recommendations say we should do research to learn more about **positive behaviour supports**.



Positive behaviour supports are ways to support how a person with disability acts or behaves.



The research should look at how well positive behaviour supports stop people using restrictive practices.



The recommendations say we should have one way to collect information about when people are using restrictive practices in Australia.



The recommendations also say we should make a plan about how to stop using restrictive practices over time.



We mostly agree with the goals in these recommendations.

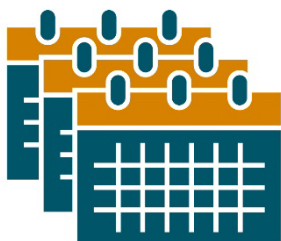
Recommendations about speaking up for people with disability

Programs that speak up for people with disability



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about programs that speak up for people with disability.

The recommendations say we should make sure these programs have enough money to:



- last a long time



- speak up for people who need support.

The recommendations also say we should:



- collect information about how well these programs support the community



- make sure these programs are safe for people from different backgrounds.



We mostly agree with the goals in these recommendations.

Recommendations about accessible information



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about making information more accessible.

The recommendations say we should:



- create a plan to make information more accessible to people with disability



- do more work with **interpreters**.

An interpreter is someone who:



- uses your language
- helps you understand what someone is saying.



The recommendations say we should look for ways to hire more people to work as **Auslan interpreters.**



People who are deaf or don't hear well might use Auslan to communicate.

An Auslan interpreter is someone who uses Auslan to help people understand what someone says.



The recommendations also say we should make sure interpreters get training to learn how to work with people with disability.



We mostly agree with the goals in these recommendations.

Recommendations about health care

Improve health care for people with cognitive disability



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to create a plan to improve health care for people with **cognitive disability**.

A cognitive disability affects how people:



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



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Training and education for workers



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about training and education for workers.



The recommendations say we should teach people about cognitive disabilities when they are studying to work in health care.



The recommendations say we should focus on teaching health care workers about cognitive disability in the next 3 years.



The recommendations also say health **ministers** should report about how our plans are working.

A minister leads an area of the government.

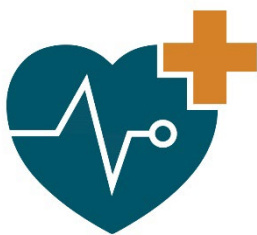


The recommendations talk about organisations that check to make sure health care workers follow the rules.

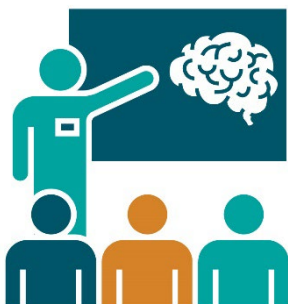


The recommendations say these organisations should report to the Australian Government **every year**.

The organisations should explain how they support:



- the health of people with cognitive disability



- education providers to teach health care workers about cognitive disability.



We mostly agree with the goals in these recommendations.

Student placements in disability services



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to support more student **placements** in disability services.



A placement is a job you do as part of your training.

It can help you learn the skills you need to do that type of work.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Including other cognitive disabilities



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

In this document we call it the Centre.



The Centre makes sure people with **intellectual disability** get better health care.

An intellectual disability affects how you:



- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



The recommendation says the Centre should also support:

- people with different cognitive disabilities
- people on the **autism spectrum**.

The autism spectrum includes the different ways people can experience autism.

Autism is a disability that can affect how you:



- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.



We are working on a good way to manage the problems in this recommendation.

Psychotropic medicine



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about **psychotropic medicine**.



Psychotropic medicine is medicine that can affect how someone:

- thinks
- feels
- acts.



The recommendation says we should report on what we are doing to protect people with disability from psychotropic medicine they don't need.



We should also check how well we are stopping people using this medicine when they don't need to.



We agree with this recommendation.

Support when people need health care



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about support for people with disability when they need health care.



One recommendation is in 2 parts.



The first part says we should make sure the rules about using health care services are fair and equal for people with disability.



We agree with this part of the recommendation.



The second part says we should make sure people with disability can always bring a support person when they need health care.



We mostly agree with the goals in this part of the recommendation.



One recommendation says we should support health care providers to better meet the needs of different people with disability.



One recommendation says we should create a new job that supports people with disability to understand and use health care.

This job would be called 'disability health navigator'.



We mostly agree with the goals in these recommendations.

Laws about the rights of people with disability to have children



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about laws that protect the rights of people with disability to have children.

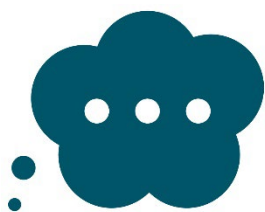


The recommendation says it should be against the law to take away the ability of people with disability to have children.



The recommendation also says we should share more information about:

- how many times this happens
- why this happens.



We need to think more about this recommendation.

What we will pay for



We will pay to improve or create:

- programs
- supports
- services.

This includes:



- **\$12.3 million** to improve accessible information



- **\$39.7 million** more for a program to support people with disability to speak up



- **\$3.7 million** to keep improving health care for people with cognitive disability



- **\$1.2 million** to stop using restrictive practices.

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 the recommendations for choice and decision-making.



We will create a plan to make more information accessible to people with disability.



This includes looking for ways to hire more people to work as Auslan interpreters.



We will teach people who work for governments how to connect with people in the disability community.



This will help more people with disability have their say on things that affect them.



We will help make sure interpreters get training to learn how to work with people with disability.



We will look for ways to fix the gaps in the information we collect about people with disability.



We will help services that speak up for people with disability be more culturally safe.

This includes people with disability from:



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



- different backgrounds



- **LGBTIQA+** communities.

The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.



The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQA+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



We will teach health care workers how to support people with cognitive disability.

We will help organisations that make sure health care workers follow the rules to start reporting:



- to the Australian Government



- about how they are supporting health care workers to understand cognitive disability.



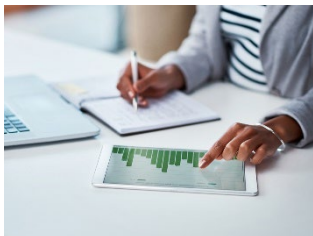
We will look at ways to support more students with placements in disability services.



We will check our policies to make sure they support inclusive health care.



We will create a plan to support people with disability to find and use health care services across Australia.



We will support new research that looks at how well different ways to stop restrictive practices are working.



We will also set targets to help services work towards ending restrictive practices.

Word list

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



Accessible

When services are accessible, they are easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

Auslan interpreter



People who are deaf or don't hear well might use Auslan to communicate.

An Auslan interpreter is someone who uses Auslan to help people understand what someone says.

Autism spectrum

The autism spectrum includes the different ways people can experience autism.

Autism is a disability that can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.



Cognitive disability

A cognitive disability affects how people:



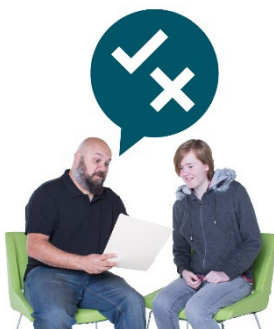
- think
- communicate
- understand
- focus on what they're doing
- remember.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)



The CRPD is an agreement between different countries.

It says people with disability should have the same rights as everybody else.



Guardian

A guardian is someone who can make decisions for you when you can't make your own decisions.

Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:



- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.

Interpreter

An interpreter is someone who:



- uses your language
- helps you understand what someone is saying.

LGBTIQA+

The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.



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Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.

Placement



A placement is a job you do as part of your training.

It can help you learn the skills you need to do that type of work.



Positive behaviour support

Positive behaviour supports are ways to support how a person with disability acts or behaves.



Principles

Principles are important ideas we should always think about.



Psychotropic medicine

Psychotropic medicine is medicine that can affect how someone:

- thinks
- feels
- acts.



Recommendations

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

We call these ideas recommendations.



Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everyone must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



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.



Supported decision-making

Supported decision-making is when someone helps you make important decisions about your life and how you will live.

Contact us



You can send us an email.

DRCResponseConsultation@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

GPO Box 9820

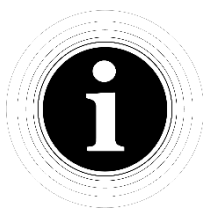
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Helen Butcher created the art on the front cover of this document.

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.