



Australian Government

Recommendations about rights

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.



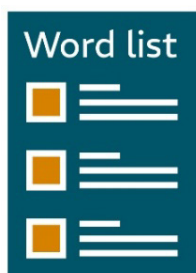
We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

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 **28**.



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.



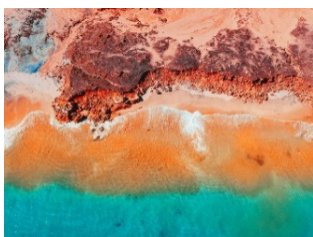
This document is quite long.

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.

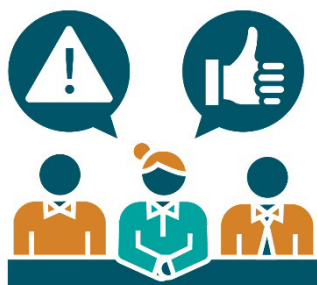
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About the Disability Royal Commission



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



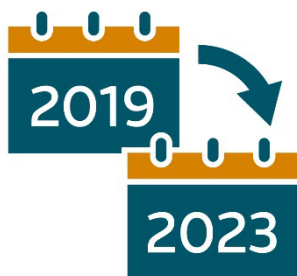
A royal commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.

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 4 of the Disability Royal Commission's final report.



This document explains our response to recommendations about the **rights** of people with disability in Australia.



Rights are rules about how everyone must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



This document also explains our response to recommendations about changing laws that protect people from **discrimination**.



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

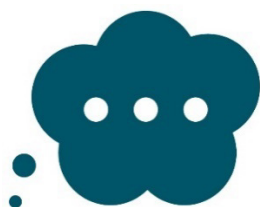
This includes how services treat you.

Our response to the recommendations

On the following pages, we explain the recommendations we:



- mostly agree with



- need to think more about.

Recommendations about a new Disability Rights Act



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about creating a new law called the Disability Rights Act.

In this document, we call it the Rights Act.



We need to think more about the following recommendations for a new Rights Act.

Follow the CRPD



The recommendations say the Rights Act should follow the ideas in the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.



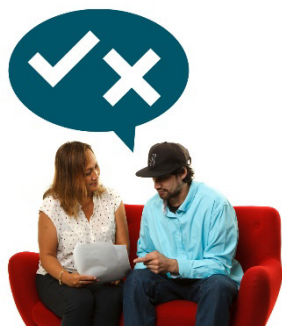
The CRPD says people with disability should have the same rights as everyone else.

Making decisions

The recommendations say the Rights Act should make sure people with disability:



- have a say on decisions that affect their lives



- can get support to make decisions if they need it.



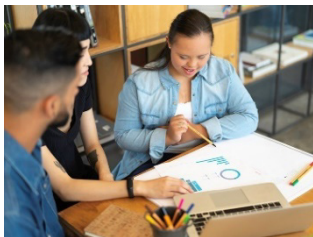
This includes support from **advocacy organisations.**



Advocacy organisations are groups that speak up for people with disability.

They can:

- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



The Rights Act should also make sure that governments include people with disability in their decisions.

For example, decisions about laws, plans and programs.

Making complaints



The recommendations say the Rights Act should create a new way for people with disability to make **complaints**.



When you make a complaint, you tell someone that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.

Respecting cultures



The recommendations say the Rights Act should make sure advocacy organisations respect different **cultures** when they support people with disability.

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.

Protect people from violence or abuse



The recommendations say the Rights Act needs to protect people with disability from **violence or abuse**.



Violence or abuse is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

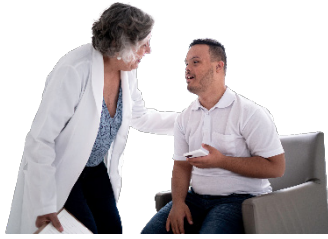
Protect people's rights



The recommendations say the Rights Act should protect people's right to be free and safe.



People with disability should only be arrested if they have broken the law.



The recommendations say the Rights Act should protect people's right to use health care services.



The recommendations say the Rights Act should protect people's right to live without discrimination.



The recommendations say the Rights Act should protect people's right to **accessible** information.

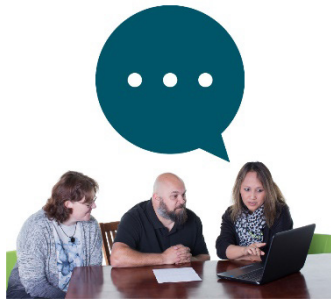


When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



The recommendations say the Rights Act should protect people's right to accessible communication.



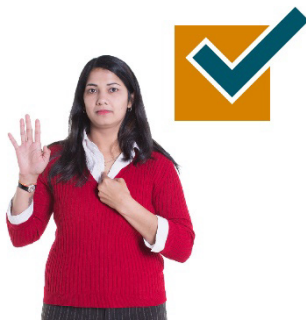
This includes making sure the Australian Government provides **interpreters**.



An interpreter is someone who:

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

Follow the Rights Act



The recommendations say that people who work for governments must follow the Rights Act.



Governments should write a report every year to show they are following the Rights Act.



The recommendations say the Rights Act should also increase the powers of a National Disability Commission.



A National Disability Commission would make sure governments are following the Rights Act.



The recommendations say the Rights Act should explain what happens if people don't follow the rules.

This includes going to **court**.



Court is a place where a judge or a jury help fix legal problems.

Review the Rights Act



The recommendations say we must **review** the Rights Act within 5 years after it becomes a law.



When you review something, you check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.

Recommendations about changing the Disability Discrimination Act



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about making changes to the Disability Discrimination Act.

In this document, we call it the Discrimination Act.



We mostly agree with the goals in the following recommendations.

Follow the CRPD



The recommendations say the Discrimination Act should follow the ideas in the CRPD.



This includes how we protect people from discrimination when they come to Australia from different countries.

Who must prove discrimination



The recommendations say the Discrimination Act needs to change who must prove discrimination has happened.



This means a person with disability won't need to prove they experienced discrimination because of their disability.



Instead, the person who might have treated someone differently because of their disability, will need to prove they did not.

Make reasonable adjustments



The recommendations say the Discrimination Act needs to better support **reasonable adjustments**.



When we make reasonable adjustments, we change workplaces so people with disability can work there.

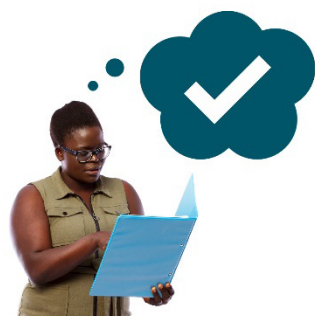


For example, the Discrimination Act should make it against the law for workplaces to say no to reasonable adjustments.



Unless the reasonable adjustment:

- is very difficult to make
- costs too much money for the workplace.



This is called an 'unjustifiable hardship'.

The recommendations say the Discrimination Act should make it clearer what an unjustifiable hardship is.

Include disability discrimination in other laws

The recommendations say the Australian Human Rights Commission Act should:



- include disability discrimination



- be supported by the Discrimination Act.

Stop discrimination before it starts



The recommendations say the Discrimination Act should support people to stop discrimination before it starts.



For example, a workplace can make sure it is accessible to people with disability.

Protect people from offensive behaviour



The recommendations say the Discrimination Act should include changes that will protect people with disability from **offensive behaviour**.



Offensive behaviour is when someone says or does something that hurts your feelings.

This includes changes that make it against the law to:



- encourage violence or abuse against people because of their disability

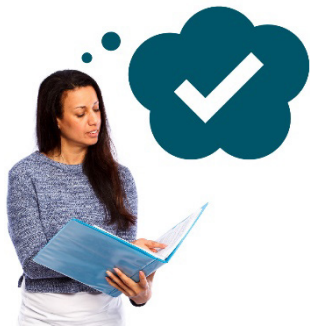


- threaten a person with violence or abuse because of their disability



- use offensive behaviour because of someone's disability.

Make the Discrimination Act clearer



The recommendations say the Discrimination Act should make it clearer how people should use it.



For example, making sure it follows the rules in the CRPD.

What we will pay for



We will pay to improve or create:

- programs
- supports
- services.



We will pay **\$6.9 million** to look at changes to the Discrimination Act

A **visa** is a document that says you can go to another country for a certain amount of time.



This might be to:

- travel
- work
- live.



We will pay **\$12.1 million** over **4 years** to support children with disability to get a visa.



After **4 years**, we will pay **\$5.2 million** to support children with disability to get a visa.

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 about rights.



We have a **committee** that focuses on improving human rights in Australia.



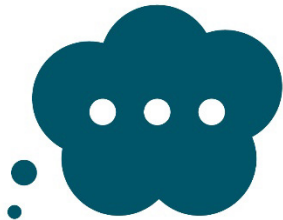
A committee is a group of people who meet to talk about ideas.



This committee looked at our plan to improve human rights.



They shared recommendations to make our plan better.



We are thinking more about the committee's recommendations.



We are thinking more about some recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission.

This includes recommendations about creating a:



- Disability Rights Act



- National Disability Commission.



This includes how a National Disability Commission could manage complaints.



We will keep working on changes to protect the rights of people with disability.

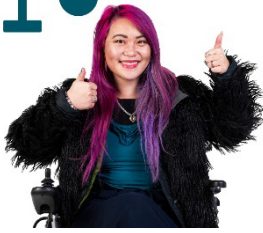


This includes following the new Disability Services and Inclusion Act.

This Act better protects people who don't take part in the National Disability Insurance Scheme.



This also includes creating a new law that will reduce the cost of going to court for people who have experienced discrimination.



We are creating an international plan that supports the rights of people with disability.



In **2024**, we supported **9** people from Australia to take part in the 17th **Conference of State Parties (COSP)**.



COSP is a meeting:

- between different countries
- about the rights of people with disability.



The COSP is part of how Australia delivers the CRPD.

Word list

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



Accessible

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



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They can:

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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The CRPD says people with disability should have the same rights as everyone else.



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This includes how services treat you.

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Recommendations

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We call these ideas recommendations.



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Visa



A visa is a document that says you can go to another country for a certain amount of time.

This might be to:

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Contact us



You can send us an email.

DRCResponseConsultation@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

GPO Box 9820

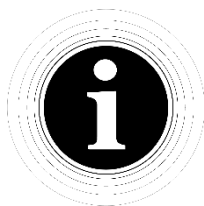
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Quote job number 5881-B.

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.