

# **The Joint Response to the Disability Royal Commission**

**What the Australian, state and territory  
governments will work on together**

**Easy Read version**



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# How to use this document



The Australian, state and territory governments wrote this document together.

When you read the word 'we', it means:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.



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-Joint-Response](http://www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Joint-Response)**



You can ask for help to read this document.

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



This is a long document.

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

You can take your time.





We have a list of organisations you can use if you need support.

You can find this list of organisations on page **31**.

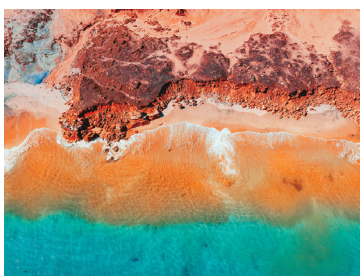


We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia.

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



- land



- waters.

# What was the Disability Royal Commission?



The **Disability Royal Commission**

looked into problems people with disability have experienced.



It helped us find out:

- what went wrong
- what we can improve.



It wanted to find ways to make Australia safer and more **inclusive** for people with disability.

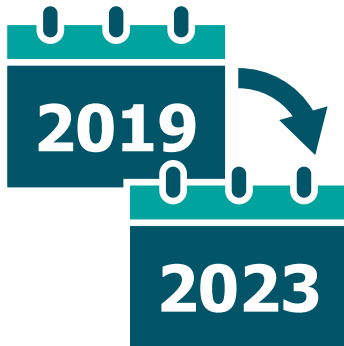


When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



Lots of people with disability shared their views and experiences during the Disability Royal Commission.



The Disability Royal Commission:

- started in 2019
- finished in 2023.

# What are the recommendations?



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

These ideas are called **recommendations**.



They explained their recommendations in their final report.

The final report has 12 parts.

In the final report, the parts are called 'volumes'.



Parts 4 to 12 of the final report include all the Disability Royal Commission's recommendations.



You can find the final report on the Disability Royal Commission website.

**[www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/  
publications/final-report](http://www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report)**

# What is the Joint Response?



The final report had some recommendations for governments to work on together.

This includes:



- the Australian Government



- state and territory governments.



The Joint Response explains how governments responded to these recommendations.

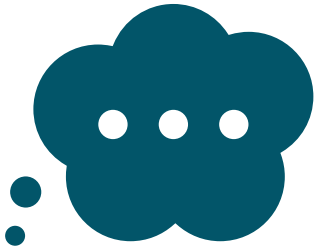
The Joint Response is a document that explains the recommendations we:



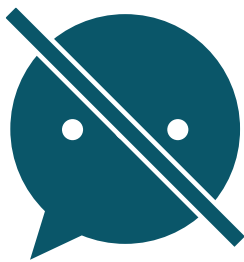
- agree with



- mostly agree with



- need to think about more



- cannot respond to.



The Joint Response also explains the work we are doing to help make Australia more inclusive.

# Part 4: The rights of people with disability



Part 4 includes recommendations about supporting the **rights** of people with disability.

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



This includes making sure laws protect people with disability from **discrimination**.



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



Most of these recommendations are for the Australian Government.



But we all want to keep working together to find the best ways to protect the rights of people with disability.



And we will keep working with people with disability to do this.



## Part 5: Guiding government plans



Part 5 includes recommendations about helping governments work together to support people with disability.



It has 4 recommendations for governments to work on together.



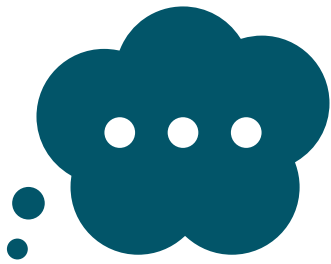
We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.



There is a recommendation about making a new national agreement on disability.



This agreement would change the way governments work together to support people with disability.



The Australian Government needs to think more about this recommendation.



State and territories agree with the goals of this recommendation.



There is also a recommendation about improving Australia's Disability Strategy.

Australia's Disability Strategy is a plan to support people with disability in all areas of their lives.



We all agree with this recommendation.

We will **review** Australia's Disability Strategy in 2024.



When we review something, we check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.

# Part 6: Being accessible and people's choices

Part 6 includes recommendations about:



- supporting people with disability to make their own decisions



- making sure healthcare workers have the skills to help people with disability



- making services and information more **accessible**.



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

- find and use
- understand.



Part 6 has 14 recommendations for governments to work on together.



We are starting work on a new plan to improve accessible information.

We will work with people with disability to make this plan.

Part 6 also includes recommendations about:



- supporting people with disability to have their say



- using **restrictive practices** less.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



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



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.

# Part 7: Education, housing and employment

Part 7 includes recommendations about how to support people with disability in:



- housing



- education, like schools



- **employment.**



Employment means you:

- have a job
- go to work
- get paid.



Part 7 has 23 recommendations for governments to work on together.



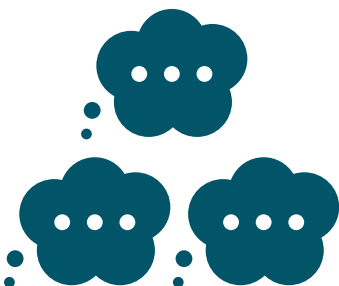
We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we will need to think more about some of them.



Some of the recommendations are about places that are just for people with disability.

For example, places where only people with disability live, study or work.



People have different ideas about places that are just for people with disability.





We will keep working with people in the community who are affected by the ideas in these recommendations.



State and territory governments will keep making decisions about schools.



But we will all keep working together with people with disability to help make schools more inclusive.

## Part 8: The justice system



Part 8 includes recommendations about supporting people with disability who have contact with the **justice system**.



The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



Part 8 also includes recommendations about the safety of women and children with disability.



Part 8 has 8 recommendations for governments to work on together.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about one of the recommendations.



We want to make sure the justice system:

- is fair
- works well for people with disability.



We also want to improve the safety of women and children with disability.

# Part 9: First Nations people with disability



Part 9 includes recommendations about supporting First Nations people with disability.



This includes:

- making sure services work well for First Nations people with disability
- listening to First Nations peoples.



Part 9 has 3 recommendations for governments to work on together.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.



We will listen to First Nations communities to learn about the best ways to work together to support First Nations people with disability.

# Part 10: Safe services for people with disability



Part 10 includes recommendations about making sure disability services are safe.



This includes recommendations that might help disability service **providers** do a better job of keeping people with disability safe.

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



**NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission**

Part 10 is also about the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)**.



The NDIS Commission makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.



Part 10 has 14 recommendations for governments to work on together.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



We will work together to find the best ways to make services safe for people with disability.

# Part 11: Managing and reporting problems

Part 11 includes recommendations about making sure:



- we know when things go wrong or aren't working well



- there are ways to report and fix these problems.

This includes making sure that people with disability can make a **complaint**.



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

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.



Part 11 has 10 recommendations for governments to work on together.

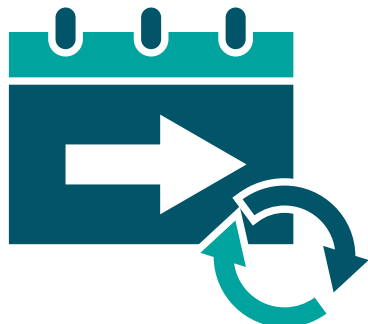


We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



## Part 12: What happens after the Disability Royal Commission



Part 12 includes recommendations about reporting on how changes are going after the Disability Royal Commission.



It also includes recommendations about making sure we have good information about disability.



Part 12 has 7 recommendations for governments to work on together.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.



We want to improve the way we collect information about what:

- is working
- needs to change.



We also want to share reports with the community about our work to deliver the recommendations.



We will publish **2** of these reports each year.

# Where you can find support



There are different organisations you can contact for support.

## National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline



You can contact the National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline.



They can give you advice if someone:

- hurt you
- is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.

They will keep what you say private.



You can call them.

**1800 880 052**

# 1800RESPECT

You can contact 1800RESPECT for support if someone close to you hurts you, such as:



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



For example, they can get you **counselling**.

Counselling is when you work with someone to explore how you think and feel.



This can help you:

- reach goals
- feel safe
- learn skills
- understand what happened to you.



You can call 1800RESPECT.

**1800 737 732**



You can send them a text message.

If you do, you can just send the word 'HELLO'.

**0458 737 732**

## Disability Advocacy Support Helpline



You can contact the Disability Advocacy Support Helpline.



They can:

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



You can call them.

**1800 643 787**

## Disability Advocacy Finder



You can use a tool called the Disability Advocacy Finder to find someone who can:

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



You can find the tool on the Ask Izzy website.

**[www.askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder](http://www.askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder)**

## Beyond Blue



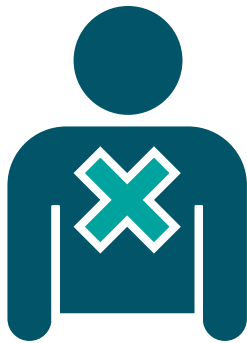
Beyond Blue is a service that can support people with their mental health.



You can call them any time.

**1300 224 636**

# Lifeline



Lifeline is a service for people at risk of:

- hurting themselves because of their mental health
- ending their own life.



You can call Lifeline any time.

**13 11 14**



You can send them a text message.

If you do, you can just send the word 'HELLO'.

**0477 13 11 14**



They will get you counselling straight away.

# 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.



## **Complaint**

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

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.

## **Counselling**

Counselling is when you work with someone to explore how you think and feel.

This can help you:



- reach goals
- feel safe
- learn skills
- understand what happened to you.



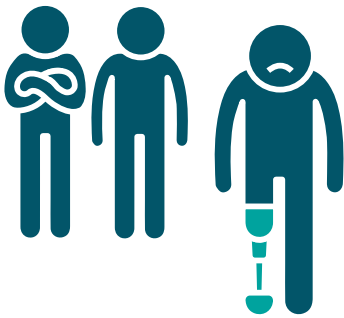
## Disability Royal Commission



The Disability Royal Commission looked into problems people with disability have experienced.

It helped the Australian Government find out:

- what went wrong
- what we can improve.



## Discrimination

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



## Employment

Employment means you:

- have a job
- go to work
- get paid.



## Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.

## Justice system



The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

## NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)



**NDIS Quality  
and Safeguards  
Commission**

The NDIS Commission makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services



## Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



## Recommendations

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

These ideas are called recommendations.



## Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



## Review

When we review something, we check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



## Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



## More information



You can find more information on our website.

**[www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Joint-Response](http://www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Joint-Response)**



You can send us an email.

**[DRCResponseConsultation@dss.gov.au](mailto:DRCResponseConsultation@dss.gov.au)**



You can write to us.

**GPO Box 9820**

**Canberra ACT 2601**



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