



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

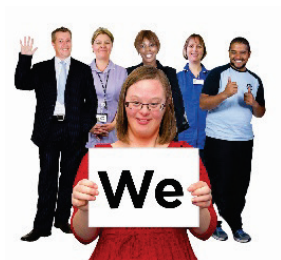
A Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

Please tell us what you think about the
Terms of Reference

Easy Read Version



How to use this document



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this document. When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



We have written this information in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We have written some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 22.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at www.engage.dss.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is a Royal Commission?



A **Royal Commission** is a formal public inquiry.



It is an official way of looking into a big problem and working out what went wrong.



It is usually led by 1 or more senior judges. They are called **Commissioners**.



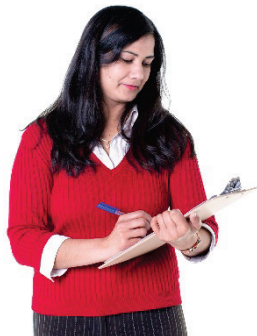
The Commissioners are not part of the government. They are **independent** – the government will not tell them what to do.



They look into a problem or issue.



After they have looked at the problem closely, they make suggestions about how it can be fixed.



As a Royal Commission is being set up, the government writes a list of things that the Commissioners should look at.



We have started writing the Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference



This Royal Commission is about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation that has happened to people with disability.

We explain what these words mean on page 8.

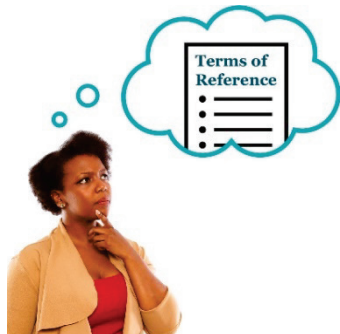


But before it begins, we want to know what people with disability and their families and carers think it should cover.

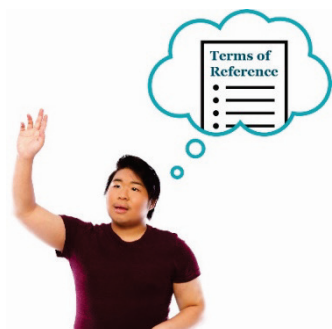
This document explains:



- why we need a Royal Commission



- what we think should go in the Terms of Reference



- how you can tell us what you think.

Why do we need a Royal Commission?



There are 4.3 million people with disability in Australia.

We want to make sure that people with disability:



- are treated fairly



- are safe.



We also want to make sure that people with disability are treated with respect.

People with disability have told us that they have experienced:



- **violence** – if someone is hurting you physically



- **abuse** – if someone is treating you badly



- **neglect** – if someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you



- **exploitation** – if someone is taking advantage of you.



We know that people with disability experience more violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation than people without disability.

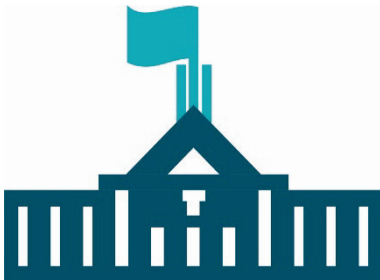
The Royal Commission will help us understand:



- what is causing these problems



- how we can fix these problems in the future.

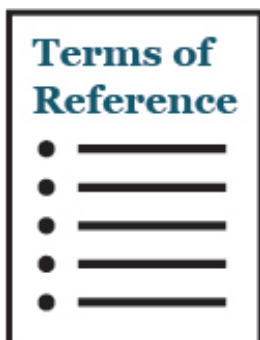


This Royal Commission is being set up by the Australian Government.

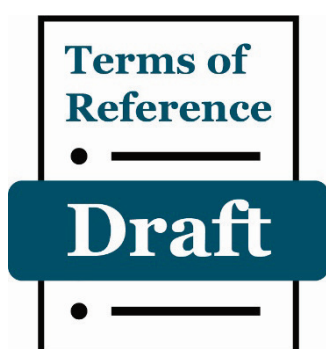


We are doing this together with all the state and territory governments.

What should go in the Terms of Reference?



We have started to write the Terms of Reference.



They are just a **draft** at the moment.



This means that we can still make changes.



And we want to know what people with disability and their families and carers think should be in them.

The Terms of Reference could ask the Commissioners to look at:



- all of the ways that people with disability may be harmed



- all of the places where people with disability may be harmed



- all of the people and groups that provide services to, or come into contact with, people with disability

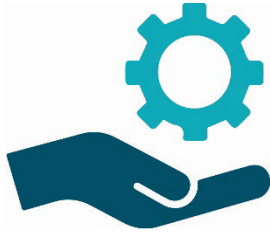


- the things we can all do to keep people with disability safe.

The places might include:



- in the home



- in a service



- in any other place.

The groups that provide services include:



- the government



- an **institution** – any large organisation such as a service provider, a school, a workplace, a business or a charity



- the community.

We want to make sure that:



- People with disability are protected and safe.



- We can stop these problems from happening in the first place.



- Problems are reported.



- Problems are fixed.



Most importantly, we want to make our society better for people with disability.



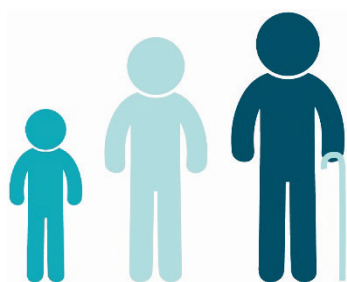
We want to protect the rights of people with disability to live safe and independent lives.



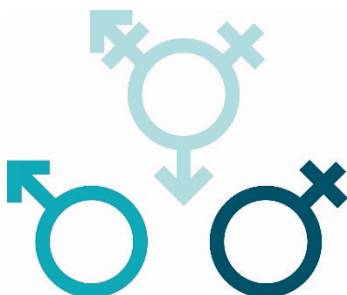
We believe that the Commissioners need to look at the quality and safety of all services and supports.



And they need to think about the needs of different groups of people, including all:



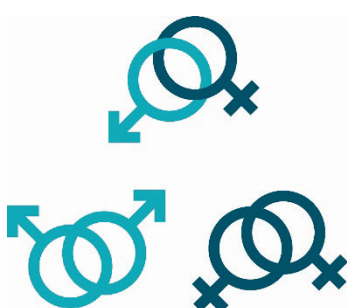
- age groups



- genders – whether you are male, female or another gender



- cultures – your race, the language you speak or the way you live your life because of where you or your family were born



- sexual orientation – who you are attracted to.



They need to think about the important role that families and carers play.



And they need to think about the role of people who work with people with disability.



In the past, some governments and other groups have looked into these problems.



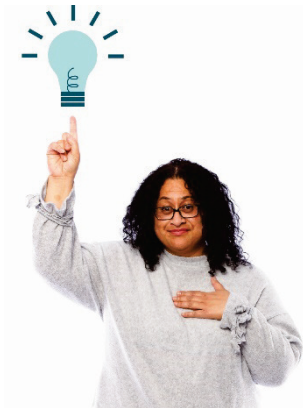
Many of these groups wrote reports.



We'd like the Commissioners to read those reports and think about the work that has already been done in this area.



And we'd like the Commissioners to look at the positive work that people are already doing to fix these problems.



At the moment, these are just our ideas about what the Commissioners should look at.



You may have other ideas about what should be in the Terms of Reference.



We explain how you can tell us what you think on the next page.

What do you think?



You can tell us what you think should be in the Terms of Reference.



You can do this through our survey.



You can find the survey online at
www.engage.dss.gov.au



The survey will close on 28 March 2019.



You can ask for help to fill out the survey.



If you need help, please contact the
Hotline on **1800 880 052**

What will happen next?



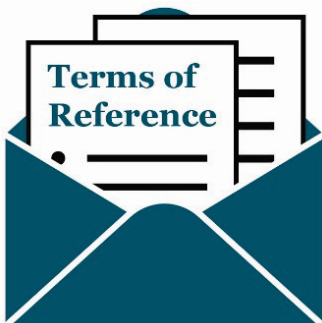
We will look at the results of the survey.



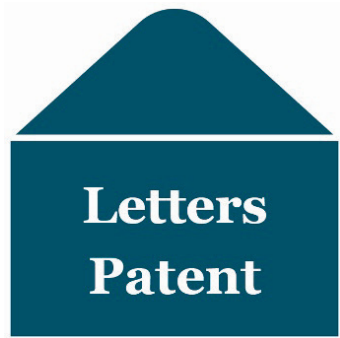
We will read all of the ideas that people share with us.



We will use these ideas to help us write the Terms of Reference.



The Terms of Reference will then be included in a letter.



This is called the Letters Patent.



It is signed by the Governor General and the Prime Minister.



It officially starts the Royal Commission.

Word list



Abuse – if someone is treating you badly.



Commissioner – a senior judge who works on the Royal Commission.



Exploitation – if someone is taking advantage of you.



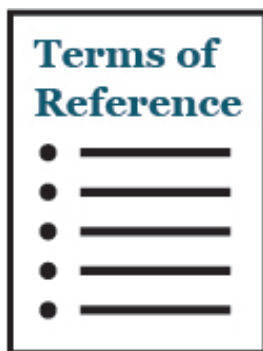
Institution – any large organisation such as a service provider, a school, a workplace, a business or a charity.



Neglect – if someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.



Royal Commission – a formal public inquiry.
It is an official way of looking into a big problem
and working out what went wrong.



Terms of Reference – a list of the things that
the Commissioners look into.



Violence – if someone is hurting you physically.

More information



1800 880 052



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