



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

What the community told us about the Terms of Reference

Easy Read version



How to use this report



The Australian Government wrote this report.
When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.

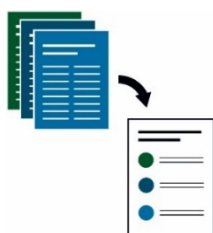


We have written this report in an easy to read way.

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 16.



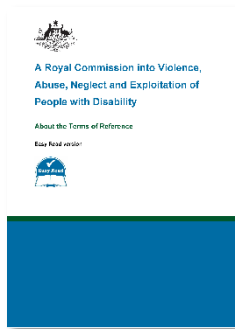
This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.



You can find the other report at
www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/



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



You might also like to read the Royal Commission's Fact Sheet.



The Fact Sheet explains:

- what a Royal Commission is

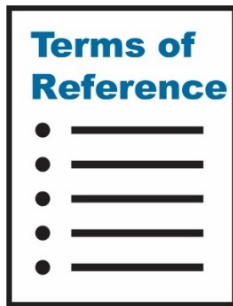


- why we are having a Royal Commission.

The Fact Sheet also explains the meaning of hard words we use a lot, such as:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.



The Fact Sheet also explains what the Terms of Reference are.



You can find the Fact Sheet on the **Royal Commission website.**

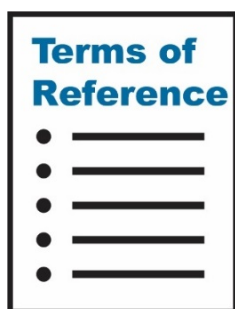


You can also find other information on the **Royal Commission website.**

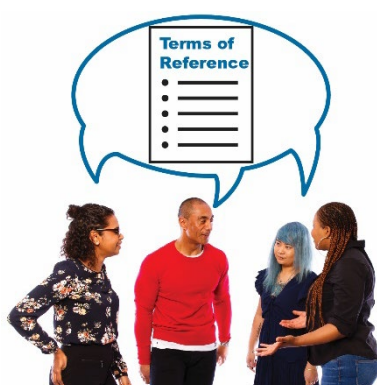
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What is this report about?



This report is about the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.



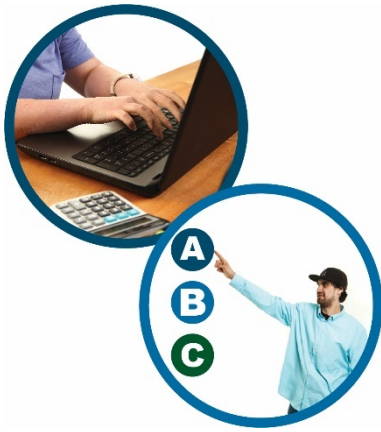
In March 2019, we talked to people in the community about what the Terms of Reference should include.



We call this a **consultation**.



People told us what they think in an online survey.



To do the survey, people could:

- write what they thought the answer should be
- choose from a list of answers.



We made an Easy Read survey available as well.



We also talked to:

- **peak bodies** – groups that work to make the lives of people with disability better
- **advocates** – someone who speaks up for people with disability
- state and territory governments.



This report talks about the results we got from our consultation.

About the people who took part in our consultation



We had lots of people take part in our consultation.



3,737 people took part in the online survey.



Over 140 people took part in the Easy Read survey.



We got 65 letters from people and organisations.



30% of people told us they have a disability.

43% of people told us they are:



- the parents or guardians of a person with disability
- or
- other members of a person with disability's family.



3% of people told us they were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples.



60% of people told us they used disability support services in the last 12 months.



57% of people told us they have complained about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of a person with disability.

What we found out



96% of people agreed that the Royal Commission needs to cover all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

They also agreed that the Royal Commission needs to look at all of the places where these things might happen, including:



- disability services
- healthcare providers
- hospitals
- shared living places
- schools
- workplaces
- government organisations.



People said we need to look at what we can do to:

- protect people with disability from being hurt
- get more people to report it when people with disability are hurt
- do more when we hear these reports
- **prevent** people with disability from being hurt.



When you prevent something, it means you do things to stop it from happening.



People said the Royal Commission needs to look at what can be done to make our community more:

- respectful
- **inclusive** – when everyone can take part
- **accessible** – when something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:



- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



There are people with disability in our community who face extra barriers and challenges.

These groups can include people with disability who also:



- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- speak English as an additional language
- **identify as** lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTQIA+).



When you identify as something, you say that you belong to a certain group of people.



People said the Terms of Reference need to think about people with disability who are also part of these groups.

During the Royal Commission



People said:

- people with disability need to take part in the Royal Commission
- there needs to be support available so people with disability can take part.



Over 70% of people said it was important to have:

- support to go to community meetings
- support for people who speak languages other than English
- support for people who are deaf or can't hear well – including Auslan
- **captioning** – when text is used to show what is being said
- support to help people communicate
- support for people who need to talk about how they are feeling
- accessible technology or equipment
- support with information about the law.



People also said the Royal Commission needs to be careful about any **trauma** people have experienced.



Trauma is the pain and memories from bad experiences from the past.



People said that people with disability need to be included when we make important decisions after the Royal Commission has ended.

Word list



Accessible

When something is accessible, everyone can use it. This might be:

- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



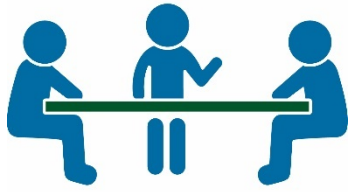
Advocate

Someone who speaks up for people with disability.



Captioning

When text is used to show what is being said.



Consultation

When you talk to the community about a particular issue and ask them what they think.



Disability peak bodies

Groups of organisations that work to improve the lives of people with disability.



Identify as

When you say that you belong to a certain group of people.



Inclusive

When everyone can take part.



Prevent

We can do things to stop it from happening.



Trauma

The pain and memories from bad experiences from the past.

Contact us



Sign up to the mailing list to find out important information about the Royal Commission.



www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/

You can contact the Disability Royal Commission:



- by email at
DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au



- by phone on **1800 517 199**
9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday



- by post at GPO Box 1422,
Brisbane Qld 4001.

Do you need support?



If you are upset after reading this document, there are people you can talk to.



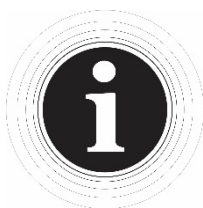
Call Lifeline on **13 11 14**.



Or you can use their **crisis support chat line**.



If you are experiencing any violence or abuse, or if you feel unsafe, call 000 or contact the Police.



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