



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services



# Recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission's final report

## What we heard from the community



Easy Read version

## How to use this report



The Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this report.

When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**  
Not bold

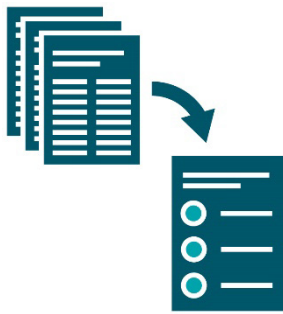
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



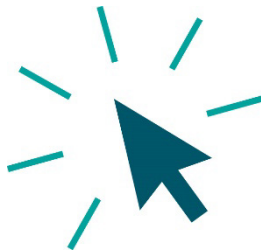
We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **34**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another report.

This means it only includes the ideas we heard about the most.



You can find the other report on our website.

[www.engage.dss.gov.au/drcausgovresponse/  
public-consultation-report](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au/drcausgovresponse/public-consultation-report)



You can ask for help to read this report.

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.

## What's in this report?

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## About this report



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

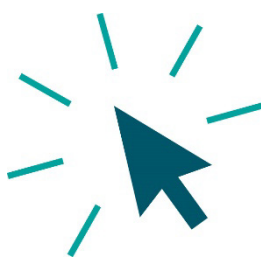


It helped the Australian Government find out:

- what went wrong
- how to make things better.



The Disability Royal Commission shared its final report in September 2023.



You can read it on the Disability Royal Commission website.

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



The final report is in 12 parts.

We call each part a volume.



The final report includes **recommendations** to improve the lives of people with disability.



Recommendations are ideas about how to make something better.



Volume 4 to volume 12 include recommendations.



We asked the community what they thought about the recommendations in the final report.



This report explains what we heard.

## Who we heard from

We heard thoughts and ideas from:



- people with disability



- their families and carers



- people and organisations that speak up for people with disability



- other parts of the community.



We had **335** responses to questions we put online.



**118** people also sent us their thoughts and ideas.



And **111** of these were people with disability.



## Main ideas that we heard



Most people shared that they agreed with the recommendations from the final report.

And that these recommendations would make the lives of people with disability better.



Many people told us that laws should do more to protect the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Many people also agreed that Australia needs to become more **inclusive**.

And that the recommendations would help this to happen.



When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



People also shared that people with disability should be part of how Australia carries out the recommendations.



And that people with disability should be part of decisions that affect them.

This includes decisions that governments make.



One recommendation was to close parts of the community that are only for people with disability.

This includes:



- education – like schools



- housing



- **employment.**

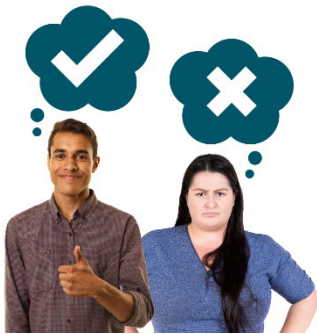
Employment means you:



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



Instead, people with disability would take part in these areas with people without a disability.



We heard a lot of different ideas about this recommendation.

Some people did not agree with it.



We heard that many people have good experiences in schools that are only for students with disability.



Everyone agreed that we should still work towards making these parts of the community more inclusive.

## Volume 4: The rights of people with disability



Volume 4 included recommendations about supporting the rights of people with disability. And that better laws could make this happen.



Many people agreed that the laws should protect the rights of people with disability better.



We also heard that laws should work better together.

For example, laws that work for:

- all of Australia
- each state or territory.



People also supported a new law to protect the rights of people with disability.



And there could also be a new law to protect the rights of everyone in Australia.



People said these new laws would support people's experiences of **intersectionality**.

People might treat you differently because of more than one thing about who you are.



For example, because you:

- are a woman
- and
- have a disability.

We call this intersectionality.

## Volume 5: Guiding government plans



Volume 5 included recommendations about helping governments to work better together.



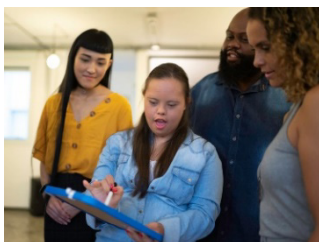
This would help governments support people with disability.



People agreed that governments should work better.



People shared that the Australian Government should work with people with disability to plan how to do this.



And governments should have people with disability as leaders.



One recommendation suggested that the Australian Government create a new organisation.

This group would be the National Disability Commission.



The National Disability Commission would check if life for people with disability gets:

- better
- worse.



People wanted to know how this group would work with the Australian Human Rights Commission.



The Australian Human Rights Commission is an organisation that makes sure people treat others:

- fairly
- equally.



## Volume 6: Being accessible and people's choices

Volume 6 included recommendations about supporting:



- the rights of people with disability to make decisions and control their own life



- services to be **accessible**.

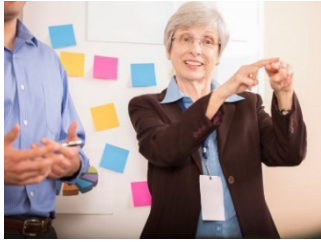


When services are accessible, they are easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



People agreed that there needs to be more accessible information for people with disability.



For example, that we need more **Auslan interpreters.**



People who are deaf or don't hear well use a type of sign language called Auslan to communicate. An Auslan interpreter is someone who uses Auslan to help you understand what someone says.



People also agreed that disability health services need to be more accessible.



They also agreed that people with disability should get support to make decisions if they need it.

And that other people should not make important decisions about a person with disability's life.



Organisations that speak up for people with disability shared that they need more **funding**.

Funding is money from the government that can pay for an organisation to run.



We also heard that some people have different ideas about **restrictive practices**.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



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



Some people want to get rid of all restrictive practices now.



We also heard that people should only use restrictive practices if someone is at risk of getting hurt.



Everyone agreed that people should:

- use restrictive practices less
- stop using restrictive practices as soon as possible.

## Volume 7: Education, housing and employment

Volume 7 included recommendations about how to support people with disability in:



- education – like schools



- housing



- employment.



People told us that all these areas need to be more inclusive.



Some people told us that people with disability should have a choice about what type of school they want to go to.

For example, schools that are for:



- everyone



- just for people with disability.

Some people told us that schools that are only for students with disability:



- are important
- support those students to learn.



Other people told us that these schools are:

- not inclusive
- against the rights of the students.

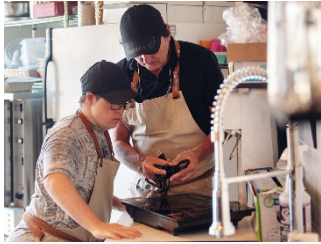


One recommendation was to end businesses where only people with disability can work.

This would help to make sure people with disability work together with everyone else.



People who speak up for people with disability agreed with this recommendation.



And shared that people with disability need more support to work in jobs with everyone else.



But many **providers** did not agree with this recommendation.

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



They told us it would give people with disability less choice about where they want to work.



We also heard that this recommendation could make it harder for people with high support needs to find a job.



Some people told us that homes where people with disability live together can be safe places to live.



And we heard that some people like these homes and want to keep living in them.



Other people told us that these homes can't protect the rights of people with disability.

And that they need to close.



## Volume 8: The justice system



Volume 8 included recommendations about supporting the rights of people with disability in the **justice system**.

Our justice system includes:



- prisons
- the courts
- police
- the law.



People agreed that too many people with disability go into:

- prisons
- youth justice settings.



This includes children with disability.



People shared that First Nations people with disability are most at risk of going into the justice system.



We also heard that people with disability need more support in:

- prisons
- youth detention settings.



Some people told us they want more detail about how the police will improve the way they treat people with disability.



We also heard the recommendations should work to support people who experience **domestic and family violence**.

Domestic and family violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



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

## Volume 9: First Nations people with disability



Volume 9 included recommendations about supporting First Nations people with disability.



Many people said they would listen to the ideas that First Nations people share.

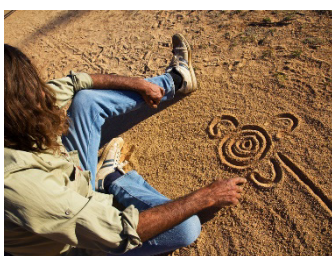
This includes organisations that First Nations people run.



We heard that people who provide services should do so in a way that is:

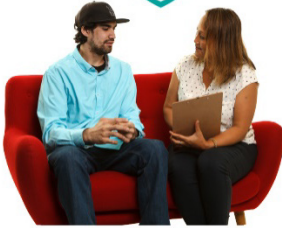
- respectful
- safe for people's **culture**.

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.

## Volume 10: Services for people with disability



Volume 10 included recommendations about making sure services are safe for people with disability.



Most people agreed with these recommendations.



The **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** provides services and support to people with disability.



The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the **NDIS Review**.



People told us they want the Australian Government to think about the NDIS Review at the same time as the recommendations.



People had different ideas about rules people should have for disability service providers.

## Volume 11: Managing and reporting problems



Volume 11 included recommendations about making sure governments can easily find out if:

- a person with disability is not safe
- someone makes a **complaint**.



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

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.



Most people agreed with these recommendations.

## Volume 12: What happens after the Royal Commission



Volume 12 explained how governments could carry out the Disability Royal Commission's recommendations.



People agreed that governments should carry out the recommendations.

We also heard that there should be ways to make sure governments:



- carry out the recommendations



- work to make the lives of people with disability better.



## More information



You can find more information on our website.

[www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/  
disability-royal-commission-taskforce](http://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/disability-royal-commission-taskforce)



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

## 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 interpreters**

People who are deaf or don't hear well use a type of sign language called Auslan to communicate.

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

### **Complaint**



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

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.

## Culture

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.

## 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 need to fix.

## Domestic and family violence



Domestic and family violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:

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

## Employment



Employment means you:

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



## Funding

Funding is money from the government that can pay for an organisation to run.



## Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.

## Intersectionality

People might treat you differently because of more than one thing about who you are.



For example, because you:

- are a woman
- and
- have a disability.

We call this intersectionality.

## Justice system

Our justice system includes:



- prisons
- the courts
- police
- the law.



## **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

The NDIS provides services and support to people with disability.

### **NDIS Review**



The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



### **Providers**

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



### **Recommendations**

Recommendations are ideas about how to make something better.



## Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

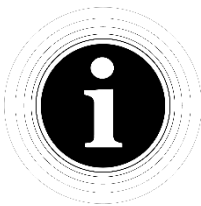
- moving
- doing what they want.



## Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



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