



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Have your say about a First Nations Disability Forum



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

The Australian Government Department of Social Services wrote this.

We say **DSS** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means the DSS.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

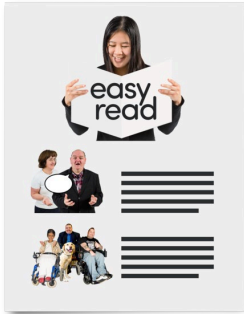
Bold

Not bold

We have some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



They were the **first peoples** to live on and use the

- Land
- Waters.

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The Disability Royal Commission

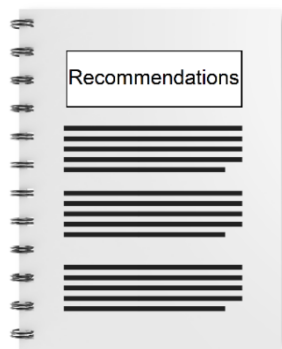


The Disability Royal Commission looked at how people with disability are treated.

We call it the Royal Commission.

It happened between 2019 and 2023.

The Royal Commission listened to lots of people with disability.



The Royal Commission shared many **recommendations**.

Recommendations are ideas to do things better.

First Nations Disability Forum



The Royal Commission made a recommendation to have a First Nations Disability **Forum**.
We call it a **Forum**.



A Forum is a group of people who

- Talk about what First Nations people with disability need
- Come up with ideas to make things better.



The Royal Commission recommendation said a Forum should include

- First Nations people with disability
- Organisations that support First Nations people with disability
- Organisations that speak up for First Nations people with disability.



The Royal Commission recommendation said a Forum and governments need to **work together**.

This means the

- Australian government
- State and territory governments.

This is very important when governments are making decisions about First Nations people with disability.

We want to hear from you



We want your ideas on how a Forum could work.



The Australian government

- Know a Forum is important
- Want **your help** to make a Forum work for First Nations people with disability.



We have 7 questions for you to answer.

We call this a **submission**.

1 What should a Forum do

A Forum could support



- First Nations people with disability to share their stories and ideas



- Governments and First Nations people to work together



- **Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.**

We call them ACCOs for short.

ACCOs are organisations

- Run by First Nations people
- Who support First Nations people in their community.

2 Who should be part of a Forum



A Forum could include First Nations people with disability who are

- From organisations that support First Nations people with disability
- From organisations that speak up for First Nations people with disability **like** First Peoples Disability Network



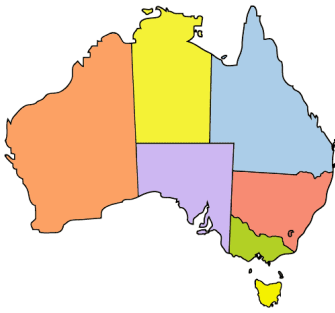
- **Not** part of an organisation.

The Forum could include people who work for the



- Australian government
- State and territory governments.

There are different ways we could run a Forum.



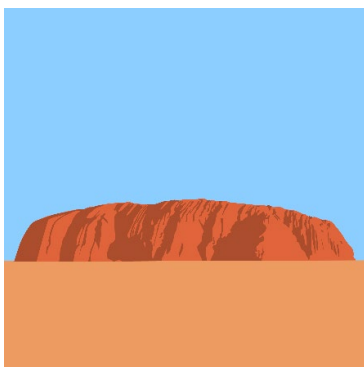
We could have

- **1 Forum** for all of Australia
- **Forums** in each state and territory.



A Forum could have First Nations people with disability from different parts of Australia like

- Cities



- Remote places.

3 Who should a Forum make recommendations to



A Forum could

- Talk about problems
- Share recommendations.



The recommendations would be about what needs to change in

- Governments
- Services that support First Nations people with disability.



The Forum could share their recommendations with the **Joint Council on Closing the Gap.**

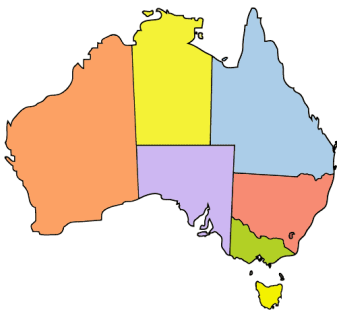
The Joint Council is a group that want to improve life for First Nations peoples.

The Joint Council is made up of

- First Nations leaders
- Government **Ministers.**



Ministers are leaders in an area of the government.



The Forum could share their recommendations with Disability Ministers in each state and territory.

4 What could be funded

The Forum will need support to work well.



Funding could support the Forum.

Funding is **money from the government**.



Funding could support people at the Forum to

- Be paid for their time and travel
- Visit and talk to First Nations people with disability around Australia
- Make ACCOs stronger.
- Increase jobs.

A **secretariat** could support the Forum.

A secretariat is a group of people who can



- Organise meetings
- Make appointments
- Write down the recommendations.

The secretariat could be someone



- In the government
- From a First Nations organisation
- The government and a First Nations Organisation working together.

5 How would a Forum work with other groups



The Forum would be a new way for the government and First Nations people with disability to work together.

The government will still work with other groups that look at



- Early childhood
- Health
- Housing
- Justice
- NDIS.



The Forum would **also** work with these other groups.

6 How should the government check if a Forum is working well

There could be a plan to check the Forum is working well.



We could

- Work out the things to do first
- Plan to check how the Forum is working after 1 year.
- Plan an **evaluation**.



An evaluation means looking at what

- Worked
- Did **not** work.

7 Do you have any more ideas

We want to hear your ideas about the Forum.



Do you have any more ideas about the Forum?



We will work with First Nations people with disability to come up with ideas about a Forum.

We will share ideas of what the Forum could look like.



We will work with

- The Australian government
- State and territory governments
- Organisations that speak up for First Nations people with disability like First Peoples Disability Network

To come up with these ideas.

How to tell us your ideas



When you tell us your ideas we will see your personal information like

- Your email address
- If you are a person with disability
- If you are a First Nations person
- If you are a carer or family member of someone with disability.



We will **not** share this information with other people.

We will keep it safe.



You need to send us your ideas before **28 January 2025**.

This is **very important**.



You can tell us about your ideas in different ways.

You can

Send us an email.

adsfirstnations@dss.gov.au



Write us a letter.

ADS Branch, DSS

GPO Box 9820

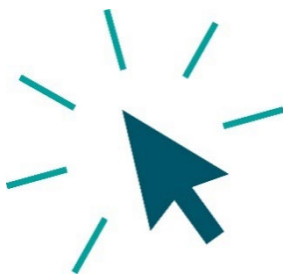
Canberra ACT 2601



Call us

- Before 25 December 2024
- After January 1

02 5162 7335



Go to our website

engage.dss.gov.au

This website is **not** Easy Read.

The questions look different but mean the same thing.

You can ask someone you trust to support you.



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