



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

## Fact sheet

Easy Read version



### Fact sheet

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## How to use this document

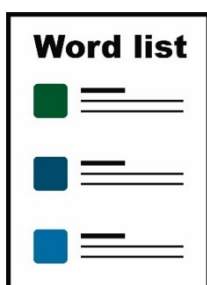


The Australian Government wrote this document. When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.



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

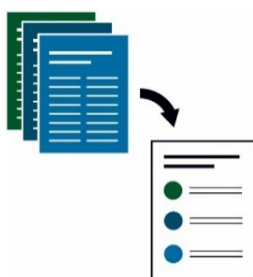
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



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

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 21.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on either of these websites:

[www.dss.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission](http://www.dss.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission)

[www.ag.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission](http://www.ag.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission)



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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## Why do we need a Royal Commission?



We need a **Royal Commission** because we know that people with disability experience:

- **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.



And we know this happens more to people with disability than people without disability.



We need to work out the best ways to stop people with disability experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.



A Royal Commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.



It helps us to work out what went wrong and what we need to fix.



On 5 April, a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability was announced by the:

- Prime Minister
- Minister for Families and Social Services.



The Royal Commission will look at all of the groups that provide services to people with disability.

They include:



- the government



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



- the community.



The **Commissioners** will find out how these groups can protect people with disability.



Commissioners are the senior people who work on the Royal Commission. The Chair of the Royal Commission is a judge.



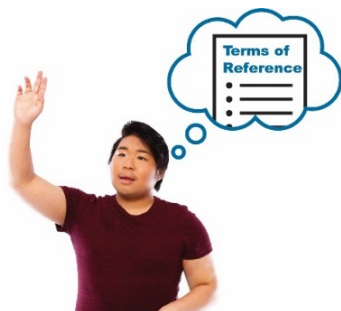
The Commissioners are not part of the government. They are independent – the government will not tell them what to do.



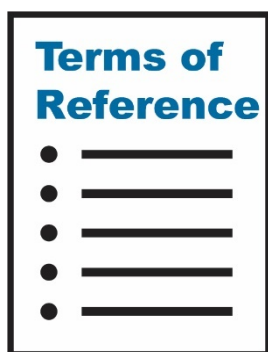
They will look at what has stopped people from:

- reporting a problem
- looking into a problem
- taking action.

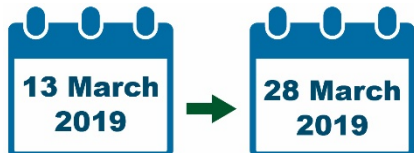
## What did people say about the draft Terms of Reference?



We asked people with disability, their families and carers what they thought about the draft **Terms of Reference**.



The Terms of Reference is a list of things that the Commissioners should look at.



We talked to people from 13 to 28 March 2019.



We also talked to:

- **disability peak bodies** – groups of organisations that work to improve the lives of people with disability
- **advocates** – people who support you to have your say
- state and territory governments.



**3,700 +**



More than 3,700 people filled in our online survey about the draft Terms of Reference.

**30%**



30% of people who filled in our survey told us they had a disability.

**96%**



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 include all of the places where people with disability may be harmed.

The places might include:



- in the home



- in a service



- in any other place.

95%



95% of people agreed that the Royal Commission needs to look at the quality and safety of all services and supports.



We will provide a report about what people told us over the next few weeks.



The ideas that people shared will help us set up the Royal Commission.

## What will the Royal Commission cover?



The Royal Commission will cover all types of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.



It will cover all of the places where people with disability may be harmed.



It will look at what should be done to stop people with disability from experiencing violence, abuse neglect and exploitation.



It will look at ways of making sure people can:

- report a problem
- look into a problem
- take action.



It will look at ways of making our society better for people with disability.



And it will look at how we can make our society more inclusive.



This includes protecting everyone's right to live a safe and independent life.

## What changes did we make to the Terms of Reference?



After talking to people with disability, their families and carers, we made some changes to the Terms of Reference.

These changes include:



- making sure that people with disability have a say in decisions that affect them



- understanding how important it is for people with disability to share their stories



- meeting the needs of all people with disability, including people from:
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
  - different cultural backgrounds



- listening to the stories of people with disability to work out problems that:
  - are affecting everyone
  - keep coming up.

## Who are the Royal Commissioners?



We have now confirmed who the Commissioners will be for this Royal Commission.

The Hon Ronald Sackville AO QC will lead the Royal Commission.

He will be supported by:

- The Hon Roslyn Atkinson AO
- Ms Barbara Bennett PSM
- Dr Rhonda Galbally AC
- Ms Andrea Mason OAM
- Mr Alastair McEwin
- The Hon John Ryan AM.

## How much will the Royal Commission cost?



We expect the Royal Commission to run for 3 years.

**\$527.9  
million**

It will cost \$527.9 million.



This includes money to pay for support for people with disability to take part in the Royal Commission.



It also includes funding to:



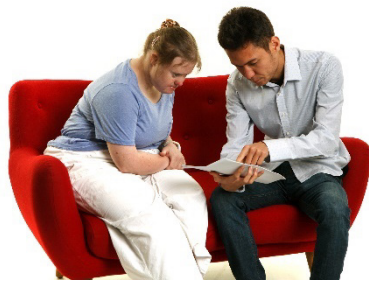
- set up the Royal Commission
- run the Royal Commission
- finish the Royal Commission.



## How will people with disability be supported?



We have asked people with disability, their families and carers how we can support them to take part in this Royal Commission.



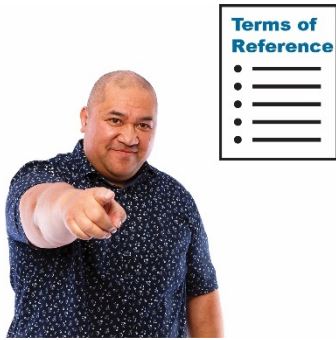
We will work with them to make sure as many people as possible can take part.



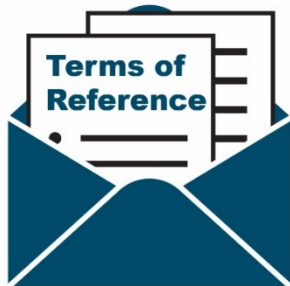
The type of support that will be offered to people taking part in the Royal Commission, will include:

- advocacy support
- counselling support.

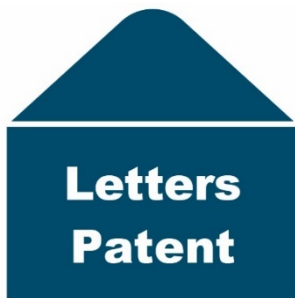
## What happens next?



Your feedback has helped us to confirm what the Terms of Reference will say.



The Terms of Reference were included in a letter.



This is called the Letters Patent.



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



This letter will officially start the Royal Commission.



It will take time to start the Royal Commission.



The Commissioners will work together to decide what to do next.



This includes:

- when they will start holding hearings
- how people can take part.

The Royal Commission will soon have its own:



- website
- phone number.



To keep updated, visit either of these websites:

[www.dss.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission](http://www.dss.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission)

[www.ag.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission](http://www.ag.gov.au/DisabilityRoyalCommission)



You can also phone 1800 880 052 between 9am and 7pm, Monday to Friday.



This is a number we are using for a short time.



It will be replaced by a new number soon.

We will let you know the new number as soon as we can.



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

## Word list



### **Abuse**

If someone is treating you badly.



### **Advocates**

A person who supports you to you have your say.



### **Commissioners**

Senior people who work on the Royal Commission.



### **Disability peak bodies**

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



### **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**

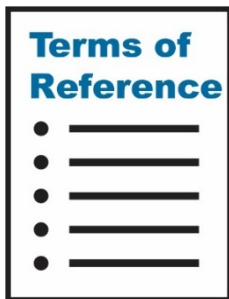
If someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.



## **Royal Commission**

An official way of looking into a big problem.

It will help us work out what went wrong and what we can fix.



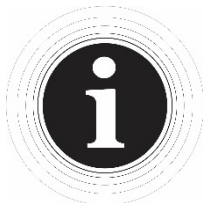
## **Terms of Reference**

A list of the things that the Commissioners look into.



## **Violence**

If someone is hurting you physically.



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