



Australian Government

Recommendations about housing

The Australian Government response
to the Disability Royal Commission

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Australian Government wrote this document.

When you read the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.



We wrote this document 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 **28**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Aus-Gov-Response



You can ask for help to read this document.

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.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia.



They were the first people to live on and use the:

- land
- waters.

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About the Disability Royal Commission



We created a **royal commission** to find out how to make our community safer for people with disability.



A royal commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.

It helps us work out what:

- has gone wrong
- we need to improve.



We call it the Disability Royal Commission.



The Disability Royal Commission ran from 2019 to 2023.

About the recommendations



The Disability Royal Commission shared ideas about what governments and services should change.

We call these ideas **recommendations**.



This document explains our response to some of Part 7 of the Disability Royal Commission's final report.



The document explains our response to recommendations about housing.



The Disability Royal Commission says housing should be more **accessible**.



When housing is accessible it:

- supports what people need
- is easy to move around in.

Our response to the recommendations

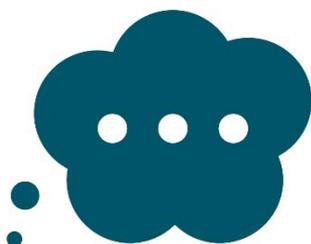
On the following pages, we explain the recommendations we:



- agree with



- mostly agree with



- need to think more about.

Recommendation to provide more accessible housing



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation for governments to work with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to provide more accessible housing.



The recommendation says governments and the NDIA should also work with people who take part in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



This will make sure the housing meets their needs.



The recommendation says it should be easier for people who take part in the NDIS to use supported accommodation.



For example, **specialist disability accommodation (SDA)**.

SDA is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.



The recommendation says governments and the NDIA need to help people with disability:

- understand their housing options
- get support to live in the housing they choose.

The recommendation also says governments and the NDIA need to:



- tell people about the changes they will make



- work with the disability community to understand how well the changes are working.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Recommendations about plans for housing

Plans to focus on people with disability

The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to focus more on people with disability when governments make plans for:



- housing



- people who are **homeless**.



People who are homeless don't have a home.

They must find a place to sleep each night.

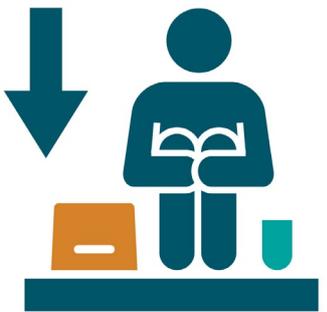


This includes the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement.

This agreement between governments aims to:



- make housing cost less money



- reduce the number of people who experience homelessness.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Australia's Disability Strategy



Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) is a plan about supporting people with disability in all areas of their life.



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation for the ADS to focus more on how to stop people with disability from becoming homeless.



We agree with this recommendation.

The National Housing and Homeless Plan



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation for the National Housing and Homeless Plan.

The recommendation says the National Housing and Homeless Plan should support governments to:



- find ways to better understand the different needs of people with disability



- find out if services have enough money to support people who are homeless.

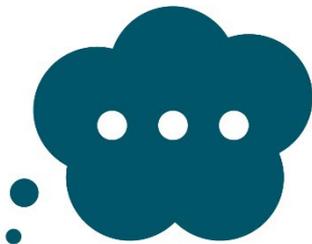
The recommendation also says the plan should support governments to:



- support people with disability to find housing that meets their needs



- find out if they can set up free legal advice for people with disability who are homeless.

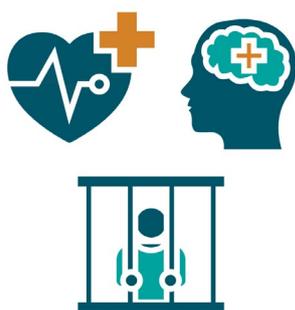


We need to think more about this recommendation.

Recommendation to provide support after using government services



The Disability Royal Commission made a recommendation to support people with disability when they leave government services.



For example, when they leave:

- health services
- mental health services
- prisons.



The recommendation says governments should make sure all people with disability can find a home that meets their needs when they leave government services.



This means less people with disability will be at risk of becoming homeless when they leave government services.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Recommendations about group homes

Changing group homes



Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation for the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission).

The recommendation says the NDIS Commission should:



- follow their plan to improve group homes



- add more goals to their plan to improve group homes.



For example, the NDIS Commission should add a new goal to make sure people in group homes can take part in the community.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Ending group homes



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations about planning to end group homes.

One recommendation says governments should make a plan that:



- supports people with disability to leave group homes



- supports people with disability to find housing that supports what they need



- ends group homes within the next 15 years.



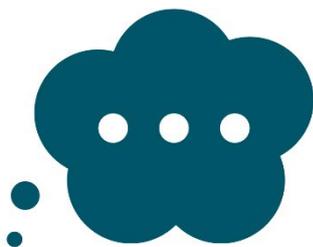
One recommendation explains what governments could do straight away to end group homes.



For example, they could stop creating new group homes now.



The recommendation also explains that governments should think about how much housing there is when they make their plan to end group homes.



We need to think more about these recommendations.

What we will pay for



We will pay to improve or create:

- programs
- supports
- services.

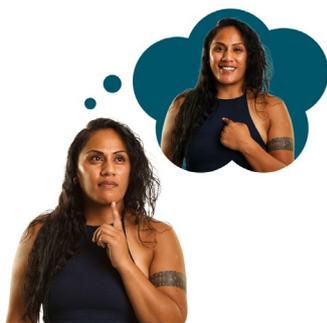
This includes **\$49.7 million** to:



- support people who take part in the NDIS to find housing that meets their needs



- teach SDA providers to follow the rules about **conflicts of interest**.



A conflict of interest is when someone could affect a decision so the result is better for them.

This money will also pay to make changes
so the same organisation cannot deliver:



- SDA services
- and
- **supported independent living (SIL)** services.



SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your
home so you can:

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.

Important actions and plans



Governments have already agreed to start working together on some important actions and plans with the disability community.



These actions and plans will support the recommendations for making housing more accessible.



We will share our National Housing and Homeless Plan in 2024.



It will explain how we want to:

- improve housing
- support people who are homeless.



We will support the National Housing and Homeless Agreement.



We will make sure the ADS focuses on how to stop people with disability from becoming homeless.



We will make sure other housing programs focus on supporting people with disability.



For example, we will make sure new homes follow the rules in the National Construction Code.

Word list

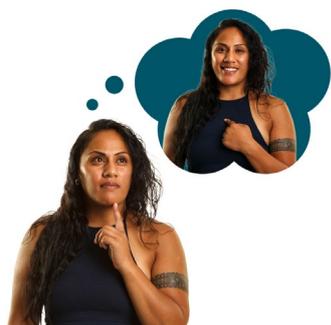
This list explains what the bold words in this document mean.



Accessible

When housing is accessible it:

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Conflicts of interest

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Group homes

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Homeless

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Recommendations

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Royal commission

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Supported independent living (SIL)



SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.



Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)

SDA is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.

Contact us



You can send us an email.

DRCResponseConsultation@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

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You can visit our website.

www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Aus-Gov-Response



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Quote job number 5881-G.

Helen Butcher created the art on the front cover of this document.

She is an artist. Her picture is called 'Belonging'.

It is about inclusion.

She made this art for the Australian Government Response to the Disability Royal Commission.

We thank Helen for sharing her art with us.