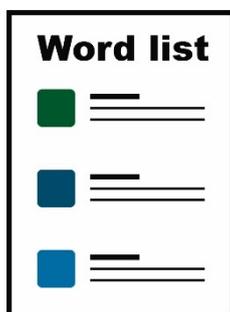


What's in this document?

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Terms we use

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



We explain those words in the text.

There is a word list on page 28.



When we talk about people with disability,
we mean all people with disability.



This might include someone who has
a disability from birth.



Or it might mean someone who has a disability
because of an accident or getting older.

It includes people with:



£ physical disability – disability that affects your body and the way it moves or works



£ sensory disability – disability that affects one or more of your senses, such as sight or hearing



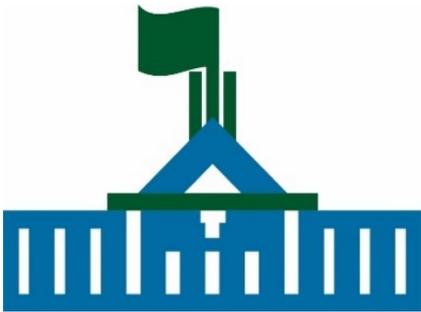
£ intellectual disability – disability that affects the way you think



£ psycho-social disability – disability that affects your mental health.



We also use the word 'government'.



This may mean the Australian Government.



Or it may mean the governments of the states or territories.



Or it may mean local governments, such as the council in your area.

What is a Royal Commission?



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.



It is usually led by 1 or more senior people. The Chair of the Royal Commission is a judge. These people are called the **Commissioners**.



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



They look into a problem or issue.



After they have looked at the problem closely, they make suggestions about how it can be fixed.



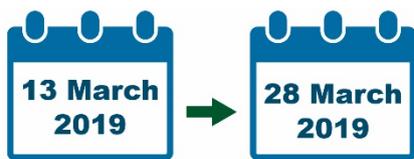
As a Royal Commission is being set up, the government writes a list of things that the Commissioners should look at.

This is called the Terms of Reference.

Starting the Royal Commission



We have been talking to the community about what the Terms of Reference should include.



People had the chance to share their ideas with us from 13 to 28 March 2019.



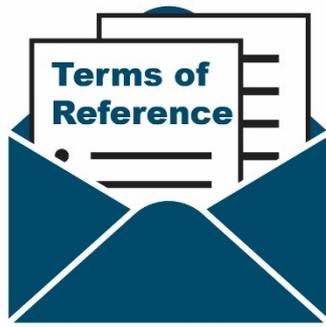
We received a lot of feedback.



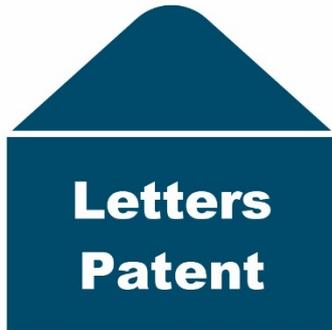
We have read and talked about all of that feedback.



We have now finished writing the Terms of Reference.



The Terms of Reference have been included in a letter.



This is called the Letters Patent.



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



This letter officially starts the Royal Commission.

Why do we need a Royal Commission?



We need a Royal Commission because people with disability have the right to:

- £ feel like they are valued
- £ **dignity** – to be treated with respect.



People with disability should have the same human rights as everyone else.



And they should be free to use those rights.



People with disability have the right to be safe.

People with disability also have the right to be free from:

€ **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.

All forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against people with disability are **abhorrent**.



This means that it is really horrible.



Australia has an **obligation** to protect the rights of people with disability.

Obligations are the things we must do.



Australia shares this obligation with other countries around the world.



This is part of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (the UN Convention).



The UN Convention is an agreement around the world to protect the rights and dignity of people with disability.

All governments in Australia need to:



- € provide funding and services to help people with disability be part of the community



- € make laws to protect their rights.



This Royal Commission is being set up by the Australian Government.



It has the support of all the state and territory governments.



It is important that violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability are:

- € **exposed** – when something isn't hidden anymore
- € **examined** – when something is looked at carefully.



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



We also need to work out the best ways to take action when this is happening.



The actions that are needed will be based on what people with disability tell us.



During the Royal Commission, people with disability will share their experiences.



We will learn from these experiences.

What will be examined?

The Terms of Reference ask the Commissioners to look at lots of different areas.



The Commissioners 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.

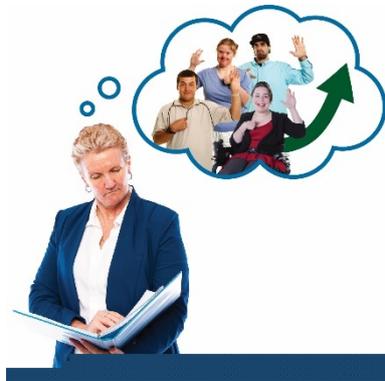


The Commissioners will find out how these groups can protect people with disability.



This includes looking at what has stopped people from:

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



The Commissioners will also look at how we can make our society better for people with disability.

We want to understand the best ways of working with and supporting people with disability.

