



Australian Government

# The Australian Government response to the Disability Royal Commission

Easy Read version



**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.

Cover artwork © Helen Butcher / Copyright Agency, 2024

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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 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 **41**.



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](http://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.



We have a list of organisations you can use if you need support.

You can find this list of organisations on page **36**.



This is a long document.

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.

# What was the Disability Royal Commission?



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



It helped us find out:

- what went wrong
- what we can improve.



It wanted to find ways to make Australia safer and more **inclusive** for people with disability.



When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



The Disability Royal Commission:

- started in 2019
- finished in 2023.

## What are the recommendations?



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

These ideas are called **recommendations**.



They explained the recommendations in their final report.



The final report has 12 parts.

In the final report, they call the parts 'volumes'.



Parts 4 to 12 of the final report include all the recommendations.



You can find the final report on the Disability Royal Commission website.

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

# What is the Australian Government Response?

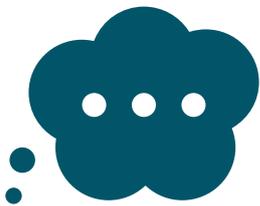
The Australian Government Response is a document that explains the recommendations we:



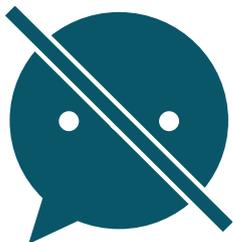
- agree with



- mostly agree with



- need to think about more



- cannot respond to.



Our response also explains the work we are doing to help make Australia more inclusive.

## Who did we hear from?



We wanted to find out what people thought about the recommendations.

We asked a lot of people to have their say.

This included:



- people with disability



- their families and carers



- **providers** – who support people with disability by delivering a service



- **advocacy organisations.**



Advocacy organisations support people with disability:

- to have their say
- with advice and information.



We listened to their thoughts and ideas about the recommendations.



A lot of people were happy with the recommendations.



But some people had different thoughts about some of the recommendations.



We thank everyone for sharing their thoughts.



This has helped us understand what is most important to people with disability.

## What are we doing?



We are doing some important work.



We are focusing on what people with disability told us is most important.

For example, we are:



- making services safer



- making our community more inclusive.

We are also:



- helping people with disability find and keep a good job



- helping people with disability to speak up for their **rights**.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- equally
- fairly.

# Our response to the recommendations

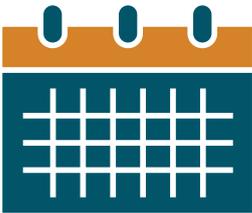


There are 172 recommendations for the Australian Government.



We mostly agree with the goals of 130 recommendations.

But we need to think about the best ways to follow some of these recommendations.



We need more time before we decide what to do about 36 recommendations.



There are 6 recommendations that we cannot respond to.



We explain our responses to the recommendations for each part of the final report on the following pages.

## Part 4: The rights of people with disability



Part 4 includes recommendations about supporting the rights of people with disability.



There are 34 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 4.



Some of the recommendations are about making a new law called a Disability Rights Act.



At the end of May 2024, we got a different report about this.



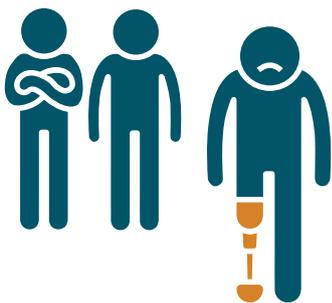
We need to look at that report to help us make a decision about a Disability Rights Act.



Part 4 also includes recommendations about changing the Disability Discrimination Act.



The Disability Discrimination Act is a law that aims to protect people with disability from **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when someone treats you unfairly because of a part of who you are.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.



We will **review** the Disability Discrimination Act to see how we can make it stronger.



When we review something, we check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



We will work on this together with people with disability.

## Part 5: Guiding government plans



Part 5 includes recommendations about helping governments work together to support people with disability.



There are 6 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 5.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



There is a recommendation about improving Australia's Disability Strategy.



Australia's Disability Strategy is a plan to support people with disability in all areas of their lives.



We agree to follow this recommendation.



We will review Australia's Disability Strategy in 2024.

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

Part 6 includes recommendations about:



- supporting people with disability to make their own decisions



- making sure healthcare workers have the skills to help people with disability



- making services and information more **accessible**.



When services and information are accessible, they are easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

Part 6 also includes recommendations about:



- advocacy



- stopping disability services from using **restrictive practices**.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



For example, when someone locks a door to stop you leaving a room.



There are 24 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 6.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



We are starting work on a new plan to improve accessible information.

We will work with people with disability to make this plan.



We are starting a new advocacy program.

This will help people with disability:

- protect their rights
- have their say.



We are also working with state and territory governments to reduce and stop restrictive practices.

# Part 7: Education, housing and employment

Part 7 includes recommendations about how to support people with disability in:



- housing



- education, like schools



- **employment.**



Employment means you:

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



There are 35 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 7.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



Some of the recommendations are about places that are just for people with disability.

For example, places where only people with disability live, study or work.



People have different ideas about places that are just for people with disability.



We will keep working with people in the community who are affected by the ideas in these recommendations.



We are starting a new disability employment services program to help more people with a disability find and keep a job.



We will work with state and territory governments and people with disability to help make schools more inclusive.

## Part 8: The justice system



Part 8 includes recommendations about supporting people with disability who have contact with the **justice system**.

The justice system includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



Part 8 also includes recommendations about the safety of women and children with disability.



There are 10 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 8.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



We want to make sure the justice system:

- is fair
- works well for people with disability.



We also want to improve the safety of women and children with disability.

# Part 9: First Nations people with disability



Part 9 includes recommendations about supporting First Nations people with disability.



This includes:

- making sure services work well for First Nations people with disability
- listening to First Nations peoples.



We will listen to First Nations communities to learn about the best ways to work together to support First Nations people with disability.



There are 10 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 9.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

## Part 10: Safe services for people with disability



Part 10 includes recommendations about making sure disability services are safe.



This includes recommendations that might help disability service providers do a better job of keeping people with disability safe.



**NDIS Quality  
and Safeguards  
Commission**

Part 10 is also about the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)**.



The NDIS Commission makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.



There are 33 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 10.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



We have been doing a lot of work to make sure the NDIS Commission can keep people with disability safe.



We will keep working with:

- the NDIS Commission
- providers
- people with disability
- state and territory governments.

# Part 11: Managing and reporting problems

Part 11 includes recommendations about making sure:



- we know when things go wrong or aren't working well



- there are ways to report and fix these problems.

This includes making sure that people with disability can make a **complaint**.



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

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.



There are 12 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 11.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

But we need to think more about some of them.



We will work with state and territory governments to make sure **Community Visitors** work well.



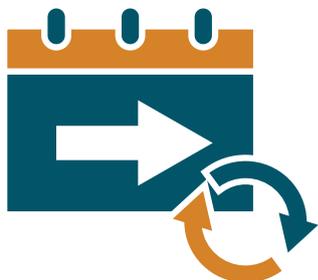
Community Visitors are people who check that people with disability are safe when they use services.



They check how well services:

- protect the rights of people with disability
- support the wellbeing of people with disability.

## Part 12: What happens after the Disability Royal Commission



Part 12 includes recommendations about reporting on how changes are going after the Disability Royal Commission.



It also includes recommendations about making sure we have good information about disability.



There are 8 recommendations for the Australian Government in Part 12.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.



We want to improve the way we collect information about what:

- is working
- needs to change.



We also want to share reports with the community about our work to deliver the recommendations.



We will publish **2** of these reports each year.

# Where you can find support



There are different organisations you can contact for support.

## National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline



You can contact the National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline.



They can give you advice if someone:

- hurt you
- is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.

They will keep what you say private.



You can call them.

**1800 880 052**

# 1800RESPECT

You can contact 1800RESPECT for support if someone close to you hurts you, such as:



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



For example, they can get you **counselling**.

Counselling is when you work with someone to explore how you think and feel.



This can help you:

- reach goals
- feel safe
- learn skills
- understand what happened to you.



You can call 1800RESPECT.

**1800 737 732**



You can send them a text message.

If you do, you can just send the word 'HELLO'.

**0458 737 732**

## Disability Advocacy Support Helpline



You can contact the Disability Advocacy Support Helpline.



They can:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



You can call them.

**1800 643 787**

## Disability Advocacy Finder



You can use a tool called the Disability Advocacy Finder to find someone who can:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



You can find the tool on the Ask Izzy website.

**[www.askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder](http://www.askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder)**

## Beyond Blue



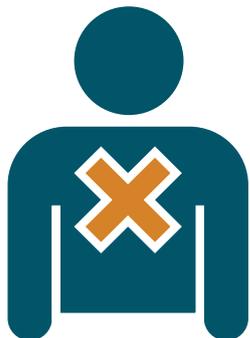
Beyond Blue is a service that can support people with their mental health.



You can call them any time.

**1300 224 636**

## Lifeline



Lifeline is a service for people at risk of:

- hurting themselves because of their mental health
- ending their own life.



You can call Lifeline any time.

**13 11 14**



You can send them a text message.

If you do, you can just send the word 'HELLO'.

**0477 13 11 14**



They will get you counselling straight away.

# Word list

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



## **Accessible**

When services and information are accessible, they are easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



## **Advocacy organisations**

Advocacy organisations support people with disability:

- to have their say
- with advice and information.

## **Community Visitors**

Community Visitors are people who check that people with disability are safe when they use services.

They check how well services:

- protect the rights of people with disability
- support the wellbeing of people with disability.





## Complaint

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

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.

## Counselling

Counselling is when you work with someone to explore how you think and feel.



This can help you:

- reach goals
- feel safe
- learn skills
- understand what happened to you.

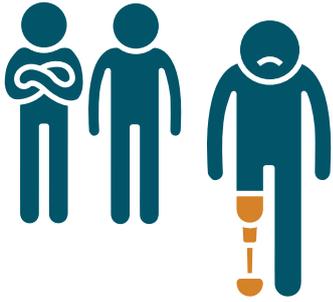
## Disability Royal Commission

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

It helped us find out:

- what went wrong
- what we can improve.





## Discrimination

Discrimination is when someone treats you unfairly because of a part of who you are.

## Employment

Employment means you:

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



## Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



## Justice system

The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



## **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)**



**NDIS Quality  
and Safeguards  
Commission**

The NDIS Commission makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.



### **Providers**

Providers support people by delivering a service.

### **Recommendations**

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

These ideas are called recommendations.





## Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



## Review

When we review something, we check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



## Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- equally
- fairly.

## Contact us



You can find more information on our website.

**[www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Aus-Gov-Response](http://www.dss.gov.au/DRC-Aus-Gov-Response)**



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**



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Quote job number 5808-A.

