



**Our Royal Commission.  
Tell your story.**

**What is the Disability Royal Commission?**

A **Royal Commission** is a way the Australian Government can look into a big problem.

In 2019, the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability** started.



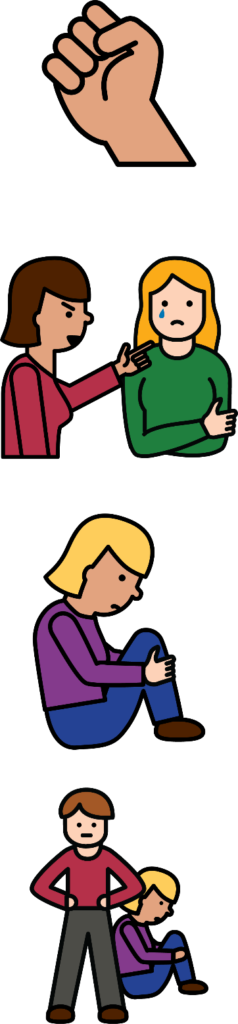
We call it the **Disability Royal Commission**.

Shape

Description automatically generatedThe Disability Royal Commission will go until 2023.

**Why did Royal Commission start?**

We need the Disability Royal Commission because know that people with disability face high rates of



* **violence** – when someone hurts you
* **abuse** – when someone treats you badly
* **neglect** – when does not help you the way they should
* **exploitation** – when someone takes advantage of you.

A picture containing person, older

Description automatically generated**Why is the Royal Commission important?**

The Disability Royal Commission collects stories from people with disability.

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The Disability Royal Commission will use your stories to make people with disability safer.

A picture containing shape

Description automatically generatedPeople with disability have a right to be safe in all places, including

* at home
* at work

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* at school
* in the community.

**Hearing for women with disability**

The Disability Royal Commission is holding a **public hearing** for women and girls with disability.

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A **public hearing** is a meeting where the **Commissioners** listen to people’s stories.

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**Commissioners** are the people who work on the Disability Royal Commission.



We need women and girls with disability to tell their stories before the public hearing.

**How can I tell my story?**

The main way to share your story with the Disability Royal Commission is to make a **submission**

There are lots of ways you can make a submission. You can:



* write it down



* make a video



* make an audio recording
* draw a picture.

Text

Description automatically generatedYou can download a form the [**Disability Royal Commission website**](https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/submissions/Pages/default.aspx).

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There is an **Easy Read** version of the form.

You can also make a submission by phone or email: Icon

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Call [**1800 517 199**](tel:1800517199)

Email  [**DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au.**](mailto:DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au.)**‍**

Your submission can be made in any language.

A picture containing person, crowd

Description automatically generatedThis includes

* Auslan
* Languages other than English.

**What will happen to my submission?**

After you send your submission, the Commissioners will look at it.

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Your submission might be used to help them write their reports.

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Your personal information won’t be in the report unless you say it’s OK.

If you want your information kept private, the Disability Royal Commission will do this.

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If you are worried about this, you can ask for a **private session**.

**What is a private session?**

If you do not want your information to be public, you can ask for a **private session**.



A **private session** is when a person talks to a Commissioner in private about their experiences.

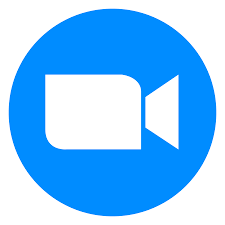
Private sessions can be



* in person



* on the phone



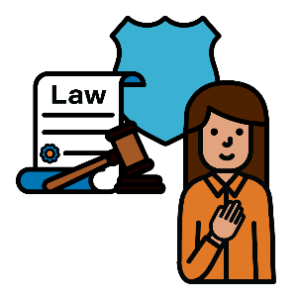
* on a video meeting

**Can I get help to tell my story?**

There is lots of support available to help you take part in the Disability Royal Commission.

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You can get free **legal support** from the Your Story Disability Legal Support service.



They can help

* understand your rights
* get your submission ready.



Call **1800 771 800**.



Visit [**https://yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au/Home**](https://yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au/Home)

**What other support can I get?**

You can get free **advocacy** support to help you make a submission.



**Advocacy** is when someone helps you to speak up for yourself.

The advocacy services can help you:

* make a submission
* speak at a public hearing.



To find a disability advocate

* call **1800 517 199**
* use the online [**Disability Advocacy Finder**](https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/).

**Where can I learn more?**

The following websites can help you learn more about the Disability Royal Commission and how to take part:

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* [**Disability Royal Commission website**](https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/)

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* [**WWDA: Disability Royal Commission**](https://wwda.org.au/campaign/disability-royal-commission/)

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* [**Our Site: Disability Royal Commission**](https://oursite.wwda.org.au/safety-and-violence/disability-royal-commission)

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* [**Your Story Disability Legal Support Resources**](https://oursite-easyread.wwda.org.au/safety-and-violence/the-disability-royal-commission/)

**A group of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThank you!**

**Who wrote this fact sheet?**

Women with Disabilities Australia wrote this document in 2021. This document is for information purposes only.

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