



Australian Government

Summary of Australian Government Progress Update on the **Disability Royal Commission**



How to use this document



Australian Government

The Australian Government wrote this document.

When you see the word 'we', 'us', or 'our' it means the **Australian Government**.



When you see the word 'you', it means the person reading this document.

This is a **summary** of another document.



A **summary** only includes the most important information.

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

There will be some hard words.

We will write the hard words in **bold**.



Bold means the letters are thicker and darker.

We will explain what these words mean.

We use pictures to help explain this document.



You can ask someone to help you

- ▶ read this document
- ▶ know what this document is about
- ▶ find out more information.



You can find the original document at www.dss.gov.au/drc-progress-update

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Acknowledgement of Country



We want to show **respect** to First Nations People.

Respect means to treat someone or something in a good way.



First Nations People are the first people who lived in Australia.



First Nations People are sometimes called Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.



We respect that they were the first people to

- ▶ live on the land
- ▶ use the land
- ▶ use the water.

We **recognise** First Nations People's

- ▶ cultures
- ▶ way of believing
- ▶ languages.



To **recognise** is to agree that something is important.

We respect their **Elders**.



Elders are older First Nations People who have a lot of knowledge about their culture.

Content warning



Some of the information in this document might upset you.

If you feel sad or upset after reading this document, you can



- ▶ talk to someone you trust
- ▶ contact one of the support services we have listed on pages 6, 7 and 8.

Support services



National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline

You can call this service for free.

It is for you to tell someone when a person with disability is hurt.

They will

- ▶ keep what you say private
- ▶ help you to find support
- ▶ give you information.



You can call

1800 880 052

1800RESPECT

You can call this service for free.

It is for people to talk to someone when they have been hurt by a family member or another person they are in a relationship with.

They will

- ▶ listen to you
- ▶ talk to you about what has happened
- ▶ help you to find support
- ▶ give you information.



You can call

1800 737 732



0458 737 732

Disability Advocacy Support Helpline

You can call this service for free.

It is for people with disability and their families to find disability **advocacy** services.

Advocacy is when people help you to speak up for yourself.



You can call

1800 643 787

Disability Advocacy Finder

You can use this service for free.

It supports people with disability to find someone to advocate for them.



You can find an advocacy service at

www.askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder.

Introduction



The **Disability Royal Commission** found out about how people with disability experience



▶ **violence** – if someone is hurting them physically

▶ **abuse** – if someone is treating them badly



▶ **neglect** – if someone is not helping them the way they are supposed to help them

▶ **exploitation** – if someone is taking advantage of them.

We use the short name **the Royal Commission**.

The Royal Commission wants people with disability to



▶ live without getting hurt



▶ access all their **rights**

A **right** is a rule about how everyone should be treated.



▶ be valued



- ▶ be respected
- ▶ live a full life.



At the end of the Royal Commission, a document called the Final Report was shared.

It is a very long report.



The Final Report told us

- ▶ what the problems are
- ▶ what we need to do better.



The Final Report is very important for

- ▶ the Government
- ▶ organisations
- ▶ everyone in the community.



This summary will tell you what we

- ▶ learned from the Final Report
- ▶ need to do before we reply to the Final Report
- ▶ have already started to do to make things better for people with disability.





Part 1:

Why the Royal Commission
was important



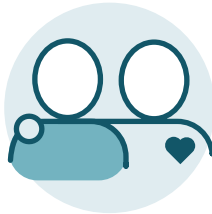
The Royal Commission started in 2019.

It went for more than 4 years.

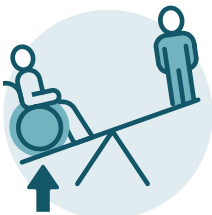


The Royal Commission listened to

- ▶ people with disability
- ▶ families, friends and carers of people with disability
- ▶ disability organisations
- ▶ people who work for the Government
- ▶ other people.



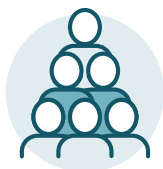
We thank everyone who spoke to the Royal Commission.



The Royal Commission's Final Report will help everyone learn how to make Australia better for people with disability.

Why change is needed

We learned that people with disability in Australia are hurt, **excluded**, or treated unfairly



- ▶ at work



- ▶ at school

- ▶ when accessing services



- ▶ at home

- ▶ in many other places in the community.

To **exclude** a person means to not let them do things with other people.

We know that people with disability continue to be treated unfairly



- ▶ by disability providers while accessing disability services



- ▶ in schools

- ▶ in healthcare



- ▶ in **law** courts and prisons



A **law** is a rule that everyone must use.

- ▶ at work



- ▶ at home
- ▶ in the community.



The Royal Commission said we need to make changes to these places and services so people with disability can access them

- ▶ easily
- ▶ safely.

We understand people with disability have not always been helped in the right way.

We know it was hard for people with disability to tell the Royal Commission what happened to them.



We are thinking about what the Royal Commission told us.

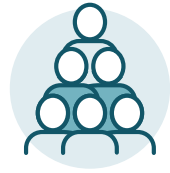
We are taking it seriously.



Everyone needs to work together to make things better.



This includes



▶ governments

▶ businesses



▶ people in Australia.

Together we need to

▶ listen

▶ learn

▶ do things differently.



We will



▶ work with people with disability and the people that help them



▶ listen to people with disability

▶ respect people with disability



▶ ask people with disability to help us.



Part 2:

How we are looking
at the Final Report

We did some important things after the Royal Commission gave us the Final Report.



We started a Royal Commission **taskforce**.

A **taskforce** is a group of people who work together to do a special job.

This taskforce helps us to



▶ look at the Final Report



▶ listen to people with disability and the people that help them



▶ think about what we learned from the Royal Commission

▶ think about what we can change.

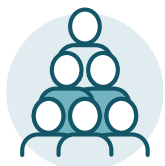
We are talking to



▶ people with disability

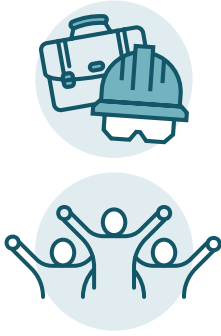


▶ families and carers of people with disability



▶ disability organisations

▶ disability providers



- ▶ people who work with people with disability
- ▶ people in the community.

This is helping us to know what we should do about the Final Report.



We also asked people to

- ▶ do a survey
- ▶ send us a **submission**.

A **submission** is a document or recording about an experience or idea.

We are still talking to people.



You can read more about this on this website www.engage.dss.gov.au/drcausgovresponse/.



Part 3:

What we are already doing



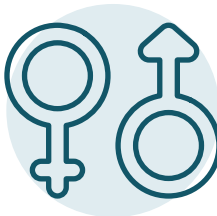
We have already started doing important things to help people with disability.



We know that there is still lots of work to do.

We are thinking about the best ways to do these things.

We are thinking about how to make things better for



▶ women and men with disability

▶ people from many **cultures**



Culture means

- the way we live
- food we eat
- clothes we wear
- language we speak
- special days we believe in.



▶ First Nations People

▶ People who belong to more than one of these groups.



We want to make things better for a long time.



We want to help

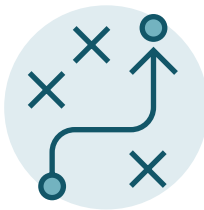
- ▶ people with disability
- ▶ families of people with disability
- ▶ carers of people with disability.



Strengthening Australia's Disability Strategy



Strengthen means to make something stronger.



A **strategy** is a plan of things to be done over a certain amount of time.

Australia's Disability Strategy is a plan to make life better for people with disability.

The Royal Commission said it is very important to make the Disability Strategy better.



We will look at the Disability Strategy in 2024 to make sure it

- ▶ works well
- ▶ helps people with disability
- ▶ can help us make the changes the Royal Commission said we should make.



Making the NDIS work better



The **NDIS** supports many people with disability in Australia.

The **NDIS** is the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

We want to make it better for people with disability



- ▶ now
- ▶ in the future.

A report about the NDIS was written for us in 2023.

The report told us about things that are not working in the NDIS.

This report has

- ▶ 26 recommendations
- ▶ 139 things that can be done.



The Government has committed to making changes to help make the NDIS better for everyone.

We have started to make changes.

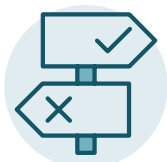
We are

- ▶ stopping **fraud** in the NDIS



Fraud is something a person does with someone else's money that is not honest.

Fraud is a crime.



- ▶ sharing a new policy about helping people to make decisions



- ▶ spending money on making the NDIS work better



- ▶ trying new ways to stop people on the NDIS paying too much for things.



Looking after the rights of people with disability.



Australia follows the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

We will call this the **Convention**.



The **Convention** is an agreement between many countries about the rights of people with disability.

The Final Report said we should strengthen laws to keep people with disability

- ▶ safe
- ▶ protect their rights.



We are doing some things to strengthen the rights of people with disability.

We have made a new **Act** about disability services.



An **Act** is a type of law.

The new Act is called the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023.

It started on 1 January 2024.

This Act will help to



▶ keep people with disability safe



▶ give people with disability the best service possible



▶ support advocacy that is done by

- people
- organisations.



Making things safer for people with disability.

The Royal Commission helped us understand more about



▶ how people with disability are hurt



▶ how we can stop this.

The Final Report said that we need to make things safer for people with disability in Australia.



We know that the safety of people with disability is very important.



We want to improve

- ▶ laws
- ▶ services.



We are already doing some things.

We are



- ▶ spending more money to help the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** make sure people with disability are safe

The **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services



ndis



- ▶ making a new plan about how the **National Disability Insurance Agency** will keep people with disability in the NDIS safe

The **National Disability Insurance Agency** runs the NDIS.

- ▶ making a new plan about helping to keep women and children safe.



Including people with disability

The Royal Commission said it is important that people with disability are safe and **included** in their



- ▶ home



- ▶ school



- ▶ job

- ▶ community.



Include means to do things with other people.



We are thinking carefully about how to make sure people with disability are included.



We are talking about it to

- ▶ people with disability
- ▶ families
- ▶ carers
- ▶ other groups that help people with disability.



We are already doing things to help make sure people with disability are included in



- ▶ schools



- ▶ jobs

This is sometimes called employment.



- ▶ housing.



Schools

- ▶ We have helped schools to make more **reasonable adjustments** for people with disability.



A reasonable adjustment means changing something so that people with disability can be included

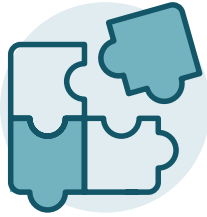
- in a class
 - at work.
- ▶ We have made information about rights to share with
 - students with disability
 - parents and carers
 - teachers
 - people who are in charge of schools.





Employment

- ▶ We have written a document about how we want to help people with disability to
 - get a job
 - work through problems in finding and keeping a job.
- ▶ We are making **Disability Employment Services** better.



Disability Employment Services help people with disability to get a job.

We are doing this together with



- people with disability
- providers



- disability organisations.



Housing

- ▶ We have given money to housing organisations to build more houses for people with **low incomes**.



Income is the money you earn by working.



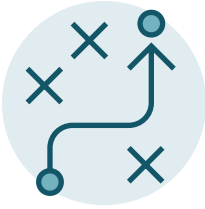
We want to build many new homes in the next 5 years.

- ▶ We have made the **National Housing and Homelessness Agreement** go for longer.



The **National Housing and Homelessness Agreement** helps people to find and pay for somewhere to live.





▶ The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has made a plan to make supported independent living

- better
- safer.



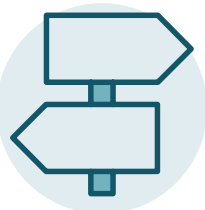
This was done with people who live in **supported accommodation.**

Supported accommodation is when some people with disability receive help in the home where they live.



It helps them to

- do things by themselves
- learn new skills.



This plan will give people the best

- choice
- control
- way of living how they want.





Making services more accessible

The Royal Commission wants all people with disability in Australia to be

- ▶ safe
- ▶ included.



We know services for people with disability need to be

- ▶ **accessible**
- ▶ **responsive.**



Accessible means easy to use.



Responsive means to be able to change quickly if needed.

The people who work with people with disability must

- ▶ have the right skills
- ▶ support people with disability in the right way
- ▶ understand disability
- ▶ understand **trauma.**





Trauma is when something bad happens that can make you feel

- ▶ sad
- ▶ scared
- ▶ stressed
- ▶ worried.

Trauma can happen once or more than once.



We recognise that carers of people with disability are very important.



We have started to do many things to make services in Australian communities better for everyone.



First Nations people with disability



The Royal Commission found that some systems and services are not helping First Nations people with disability.



All governments in Australia must do more to help First Nations people with disability.



We will

- ▶ talk with First Nations people
- ▶ listen to First Nations people



Two documents tell us how we should do this.

They are called

- ▶ The National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- ▶ Australia's Disability Strategy.



Disability is an important part of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.



We have started to do many things.



We are helping the First Peoples Disability Network to work with



- ▶ Governments
- ▶ service providers



- ▶ teachers
- ▶ people with disability.



Health

We are doing more to make healthcare inclusive for people with disability.



The healthcare system supports people with disability with



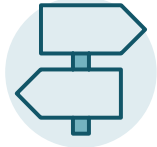
- ▶ their health
- ▶ feeling happy.



We have started doing things to help people with disability to



- ▶ use the health system by themselves



- ▶ choose what services they want

- ▶ make decisions.



We are

- ▶ thinking about how to provide more mental health services



- ▶ finding more people to work in mental health

- ▶ spending money to help people with intellectual disability



- ▶ learning from the experience of COVID-19 to do things better.

Justice

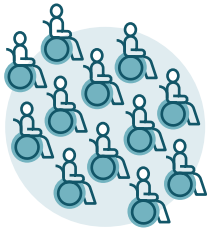


The **criminal justice system** includes

- ▶ police
- ▶ the courts
- ▶ the law
- ▶ prison.



The **criminal justice system** is where a judge decides whether a person did something that is against the law.



There are too many people with disability in the justice system.

This includes many



- ▶ First Nations people with disability



- ▶ people with learning disability.



We are already doing important things to make the justice system better for people with disability.

We are

- ▶ making jobs called **Justice Liaison Officers**.



Justice Liaison Officers

- talk to people with disability in the criminal justice system
- help people with disability who have been in the criminal justice system to live in the community again.



We want to make the best changes for people with disability.



To do this we will keep talking with



- ▶ people with disability
- ▶ families and carers of people with disability



- ▶ disability organisations
- ▶ disability providers



- ▶ state and territory governments
- ▶ people in the community.



By doing this, we will make Australia more



- ▶ safe
- ▶ accessible



- ▶ inclusive.

