# Are you an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who needs support for the Disability Royal Commission?

## The Disability Royal Commission

The Disability Royal Commission is up and running until September 2023. It’s looking at ways to prevent people with disability from experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Free and independent support funded by the Australian Government is now available to people affected by this process.

Culturally appropriate services are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## Free counselling support from the Blue Knot Foundation

Counselling support is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, their families and carers, and anyone affected by the Disability Royal Commission.

Call the National Counselling and Referral Service to connect to a counsellor who can support you to:

* discuss your feelings and emotions in a safe, private and culturally sensitive environment
* work out a problem or issue
* make choices about telling your story to the Disability Royal Commission
* find other practical help available to you

Call **1800 421 468** or visit [www.dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support](http://www.dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support)

If you are currently experiencing any form of violence or abuse, or are concerned for your safety, call the police on **000**.

## Advocacy support from the National Disability Advocacy Program

An advocate can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability (or family members or carers acting on their behalf) to help protect their rights and understand how to engage with the Disability Royal Commission.

An advocate will be able to help you to understand how the Royal Commission does its work, how you can tell your story, and help you access other services you might need such as legal or financial services. Advocates don’t make decisions for you or tell you what to do.

## ****Accessibility****

You can find out more about the help available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability on our website in accessible formats such as Easy Read and Auslan at [www.dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support](http://www.dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support)

People who are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment can contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS). Please phone **133 677**.

If you require support in another language you can use the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) free of charge by:

* calling the National Counselling and Referral Service on **1800 421 468** and ask for an interpreter. The counsellor will make the arrangements, or
* calling TIS on **131 450** and asking to be connected to the National Counselling and Referral Service on **1800 421 468**.

***Building support communities, binding together in strength and resilience.***

## How to find supports

Contact the National Counselling and Referral Service for counselling support or to be referred to another support service.

Call **1800 421 468** or **02 6146 1468** 9am to 6pm weekdays or 9am to 5pm weekends.

You can also find contact details for support services on our website at [www.dss.gov.au/disabilityroyal-commission-support](http://www.dss.gov.au/disabilityroyal-commission-support)

***Support is here for you.***

First Peoples Disability Network Australia logo

Blue Knot Foundation – National Centre of Excellence for Complex Trauma logo

NDAP – National Disability Advocacy Program logo

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