



Royal Commission
into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
of People with Disability

Summary and Vision for an inclusive Australia

Easy Read version



Final Report

How to use this report



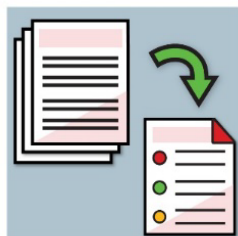
The Disability Royal Commission
(the Royal Commission) wrote this report.

When you see the word 'we', it means
the Royal Commission.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This report is a **summary** of 'Our vision for
an inclusive Australia' in our *Final report*.

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



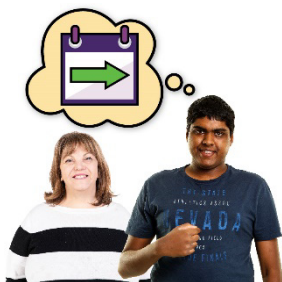
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 31.



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may
be able to help you.



This report is the start of our *Final report*.

It includes a summary of what people want the future to be.

We heard from people with disability and their families.



The rest of our *Final report* is in 12 parts.



You can find the *Final report* on our website.

www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country



We recognise First Nations peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia.



They were the first people to live on and use the:

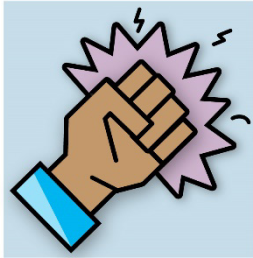
- land
- waters.

What's in this report?

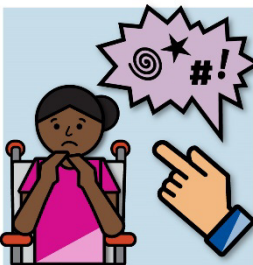
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What's the Disability Royal Commission?

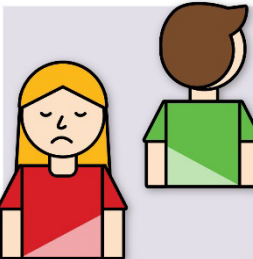
We wanted to work out the best ways to stop people with disability from experiencing:



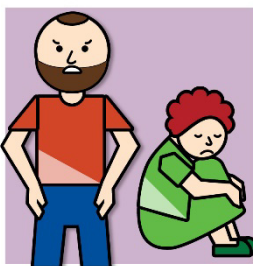
- **violence** – when someone hurts you physically



- **abuse** – when someone treats you badly



- **neglect** – when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you



- **exploitation** – when someone takes advantage of you.



People with disability should have the same **rights** as everybody else.

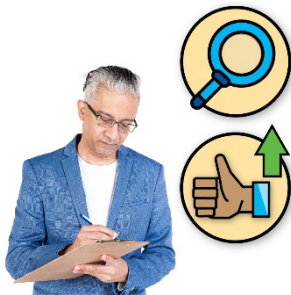
Rights are rules that say you can choose how you live your own life.

And they explain how other people must treat you.



On 5 April 2019, the Australian Government created the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

We call it the **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 improve.

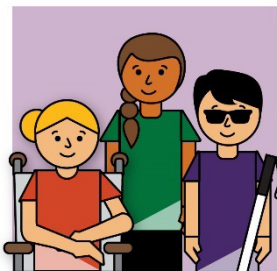


The Royal Commission finished on 29 September 2023.



We have shared what we learned.

What's this report about?



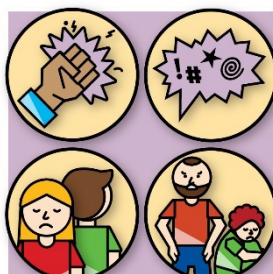
This report is about making Australia **inclusive** for people with disability.



When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.

We collected information about:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.



But people with disability also shared that things are changing in positive ways.

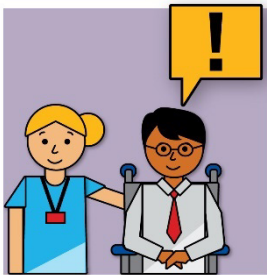
These things have already made their lives better.



We heard from people in the community about their hopes for the future.



They told us an inclusive Australia is better for everyone.

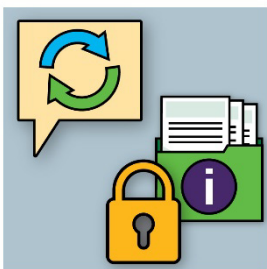


We should all listen to what people with disability need.

And support them to be leaders.



We share some of their ideas in this report.



We changed some parts of people's stories to keep their personal information safe.

This includes changing some people's names.

A message from the Chair of the Royal Commission



The Honourable Ronald Sackville was the Chair of the Royal Commission.

This means he was the leader of the Royal Commission.



We wrote the *Final report* when the Royal Commission ended.

Mr Sackville shared a message about the *Final report*.

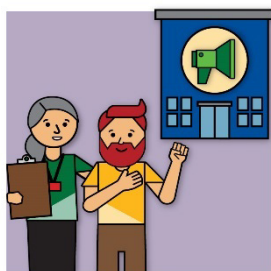
Mr Sackville says a lot of people worked to make the Royal Commission happen, including:



- people with disability



- **advocacy organisations.**



Advocacy organisations support people with disability.

They can help you have your say.

They can also give you information and advice.



Their hard work gave us the chance to:

- have the Royal Commission
- write the *Final report*.

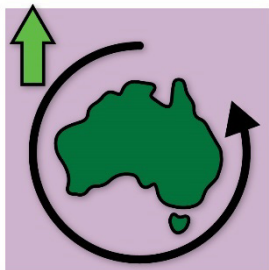


In the *Final report* we **recommend** changing some big parts of how Australia:

- works
- thinks about disability.

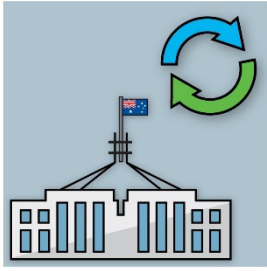


When we recommend something, we share an idea about how to make things better for people with disability.



We recommend **222** ways to make Australia more inclusive.

And keep people with disability safe.



We recommend many things that governments should change.



But we need help from the community too.

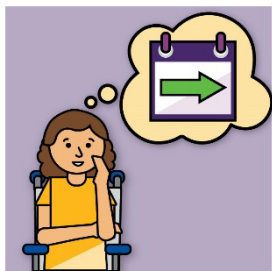


We all need to work together.



When we learn how to change the way we think about disability, we will see big change.

Vision for the future

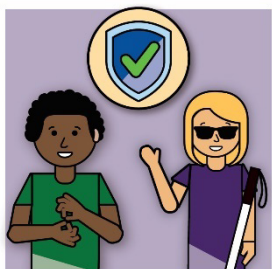


We heard from many people in the community about their **visions** for an inclusive Australia.

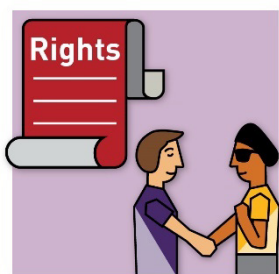
Visions are ideas about how people want things to be in the future.



Many of the visions include the same ideas.

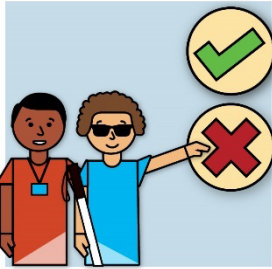


People want a future where people with disability are safe.



And people respect the rights of people with disability.

People also want people with disability to be supported to:



- make their own decisions



- live a full life.

Safety and rights

We heard Australia should be a place where people with disability don't experience:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

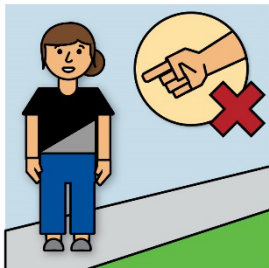


People also think Australia should protect the rights of people with disability.



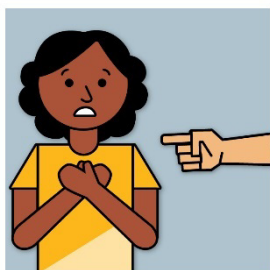
Ms Peta Stamell shared her vision with us.

Peta has a disability that means she is shorter than most people.



She told us:

“I would like to be able to walk down the street without fear of **harassment.**”



Harassment is when someone treats you in a way that:

- you don't like
- upsets you.

Disability as part of diversity



Diversity includes all the ways people are different from each other.

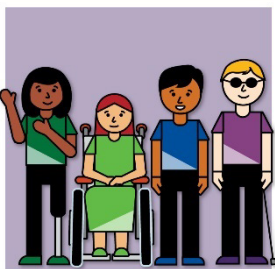
For example, the different:



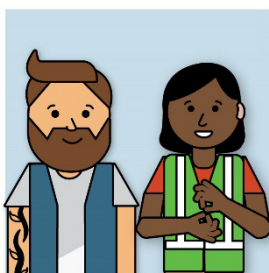
- places people come from



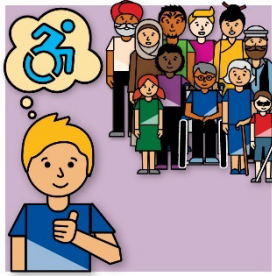
- languages people speak



- abilities people have



- ways people live their life.



Australians need to think about disability as part of diversity.

And as part of being human.



Ms Margherita Coppolino shared her vision for an inclusive Australia.

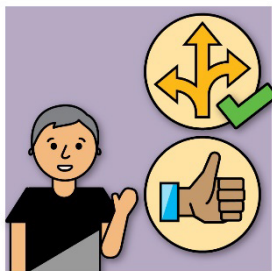
Margherita speaks up about issues that affect people with disability.

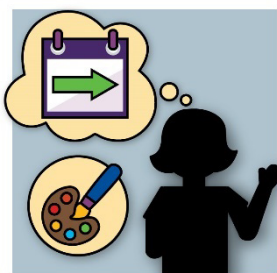
She told us that inclusion happens when:

“the differences of our bodies and minds is understood”

and

“celebrated as being completely normal and part of the human condition.”





Ashleigh also shared her vision with us.

Ashleigh is an artist.

She also has a **brain injury**.



Brain injuries can happen when you:

- have an accident
- hurt your head badly
- damage your brain.

Ashleigh told us:



“I would love to be recognised as an artist and member of the community first, and a person with disability second.”

Inclusive communities

People told us that an inclusive community is a place where people with disability can:



- live their life



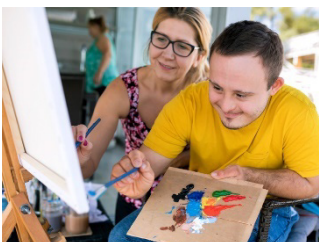
- learn



- work



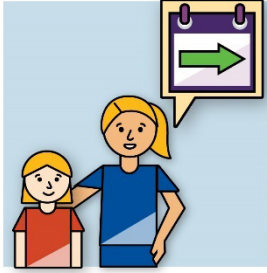
- play



- create

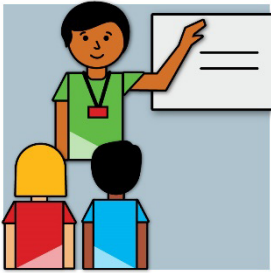


- take part.



We heard from the mother of a girl with Down syndrome.

She told us her vision for her daughter's future.



She hopes her daughter will have:

“the opportunity to do what all other students are doing.”

She told us that if we don't include children with disability in education, it will then be hard to include them:



- in the community



- at work.

Choice and decision-making



We heard that people with disability should get support to live the way they want.



This includes:

- having choice
- support for decision-making.



Other people often make decisions about how people with disability live their life.

And about whether they can take risks.

This includes:



- family members of people with disability



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

Mr John O'Donnell shared his vision for the future.



John is a First Nations man with:

- a physical disability that affects how he moves his body
- an **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:



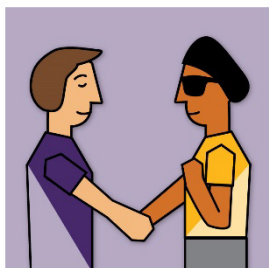
- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



He told us:

“I would love the opportunity to be more independent and make my own decisions, both big and small.”

Respect and to belong



We heard that an inclusive Australia is a place where people treat people with disability with respect.

This includes making sure people treat people with disability:



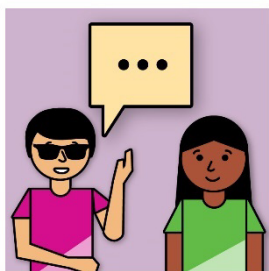
- like they can do the same things as people without a disability



- like they belong.



It also means making sure people with disability can find and use the information they need.

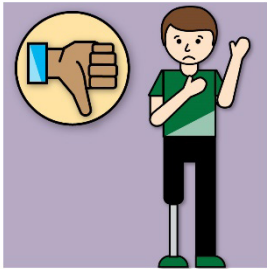


And making sure people listen when people with disability speak up.

But people often treat people with disability like they:



- are not important



- can't do things well.



Ms Chloé Hayden shared her vision for an inclusive Australia.

Chloé speaks up about issues that affect people with disability.

She is also on the **autism spectrum**.

The autism spectrum includes the different ways people can experience autism.

Autism is a disability that can affect how you:



- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.



Chloé wants to see more people with disability in all parts of the community.

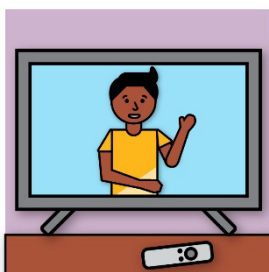
This includes people with disability in:



- government



- the media



- films and TV.

Human rights in the Royal Commission



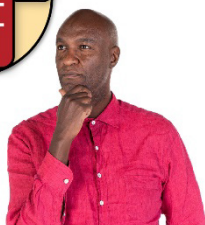
The Australian Government has agreed to follow the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

In this report we call it the **CRPD**.



The CRPD is an agreement between different countries.

It says people with disability should have the same rights as everybody else.



We used the CRPD to guide how we did our work.

This means we always thought about the rights of people with disability.



We also thought about the rights of people with disability when we wrote our *Final report*.

And when we decided what we recommend.

A lot must change for Australia to:



- support the rights of people with disability



- be inclusive.



People with disability should not have to keep pushing to take part in the community.

And they should not be the only ones who are pushing for change.

Making Australia more inclusive



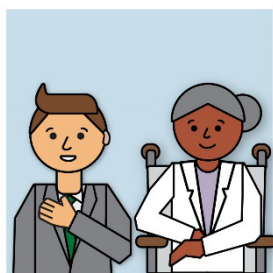
People with disability often say:

“Nothing about us, without us.”



This means we must listen to what people with disability need.

And how they want to get it.



People with disability should have the chance to be leaders in all parts of the community.



We must all work together to build an inclusive Australia.



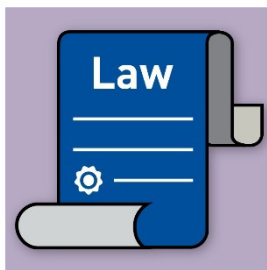
More organisations should use **co-design**.

Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.

Co-design can give people with disability the chance to have their say in how the community works, including:



- services



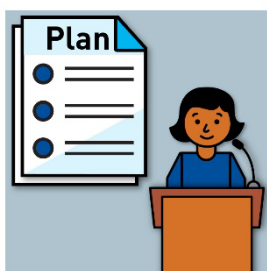
- laws



- research



- **policies.**

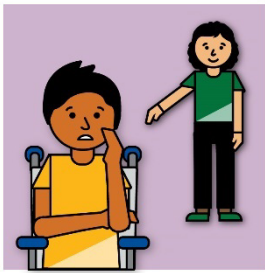


Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from.



The CRPD explains that Australia must try to stop **ableism**.



Ableism is when someone treats a person differently because they have a disability.

But many organisations don't know:



- how to support the rights of people with disability



- how ableism affects people with disability.

Research shows that the way people without a disability think about disability improves when:



- they see people with disability taking part in the community



- they can connect with people with disability.

Word list

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



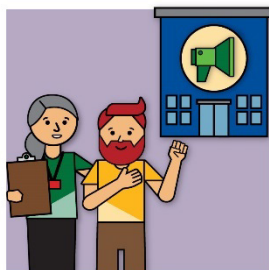
Ableism

Ableism is when someone treats a person differently because they have a disability.



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Advocacy organisations

Advocacy organisations support people with disability.

They can help you have your say.

They can also give you information and advice.

Autism spectrum

The autism spectrum includes the different ways people can experience autism.



Autism is a disability that can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.

Brain injuries



Brain injuries can happen when you:

- have an accident
- hurt your head badly
- damage your brain.



Co-design

Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.

Diversity

Diversity includes all the ways people are different from each other.



For example, the different:

- places people come from
- languages people speak
- abilities people have
- ways people live their life.



Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Harassment

Harassment is when someone treats you in a way that:

- you don't like
- upsets you.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

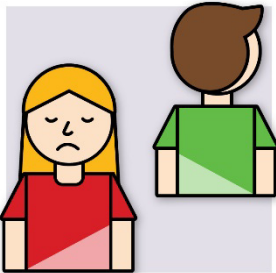
- can take part
- feels like they belong.



Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



Neglect

Neglect is when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.



Policies

Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from.



Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Recommend

When we recommend something, we share an idea about how to make things better for people with disability.



Rights

Rights are rules that say you can choose how you live your own life.

And they explain how other people must treat you.



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.



Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

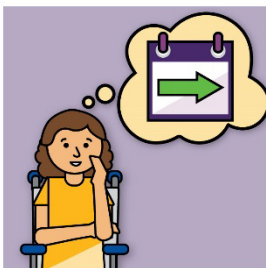
The CRPD is an agreement between different countries.

It says people with disability should have the same rights as everybody else.



Violence

Violence is when someone hurts you physically.



Visions

Visions are ideas about how people want things to be in the future.

Support for you



Lifeline is a service for people at risk of suicide.

This is when someone ends their own life.



You can call Lifeline any time.

13 11 14



You can use Lifeline's online chat to talk to someone.

www.lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat



Beyond Blue is a service that can support you with your mental health.



You can call them any time.

1300 224 636



1800Respect is a phone service for people around Australia who experience:

- domestic and family violence
- sexual violence.



You can call them any time.

1800 737 732



Qlife is a service that supports people in the LGBTIQ+ community with their mental health.



You can call them any day from 3pm to 12am.

1800 184 527

Contact us



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

The Disability Royal Commission has ended.

If you have questions, you can contact the Attorney-General's Department.



You can call them.

(02) 6141 6666



Or you can use the form on their website.

www.ag.gov.au/about-us/connect-us/contact-us



You can also contact them to make a complaint.

This is when you explain that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.

Support to contact the Attorney-General's Department



You can call the National Relay Service.

133 677



You can visit the Access Hub website to find the right service for you.

www.accesshub.gov.au/services



If you speak a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).

1800 131 450

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Royal Commission
into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and
Exploitation of People with Disability