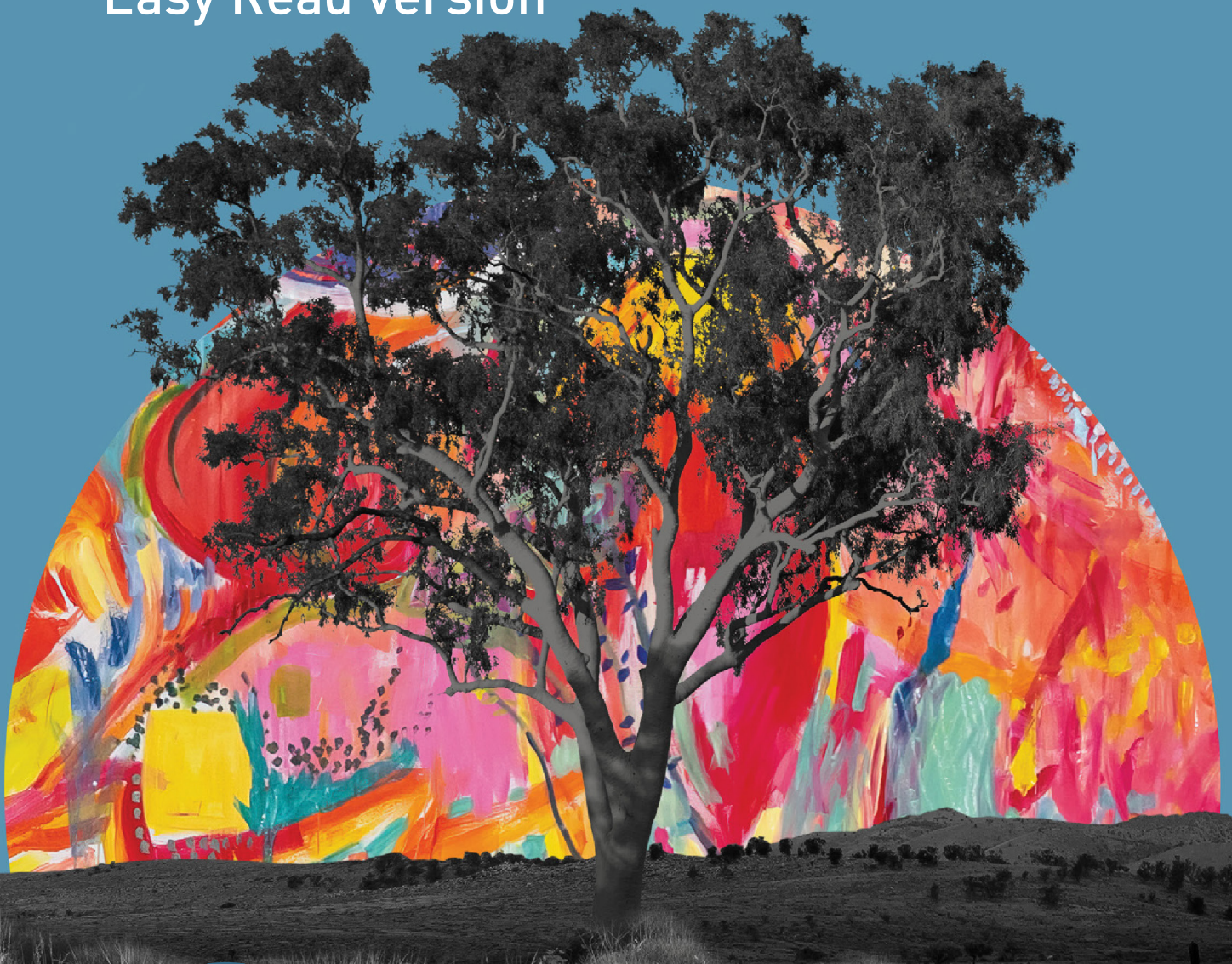




Royal Commission
into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
of People with Disability

Voices of people with disability

Easy Read version



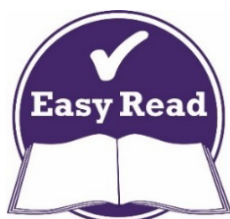
Final Report
Volume 1

How to use this report



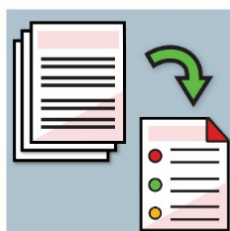
The Disability Royal Commission
(the Royal Commission) wrote this report.

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 Part 1 of 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.



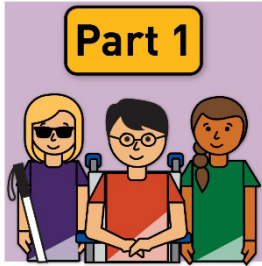
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 19.



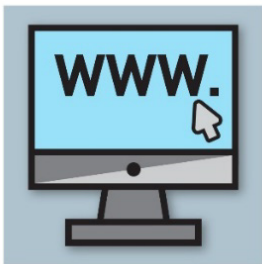
You can ask for help to read this report.

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



Our *Final report* is in 12 parts.

This is Part 1 – Voices of people with disability.



You can find the rest of 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 Part 1?

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What's the Disability Royal Commission?

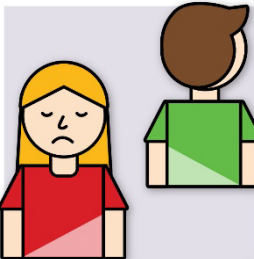
We wanted to work out the best ways to stop people with disability experiencing:



- **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.



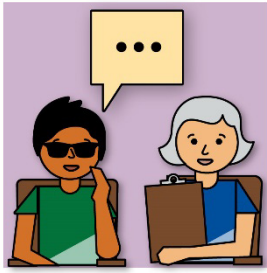
We have shared what we learned.



The last thing we need to do is share what we **recommend**.

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

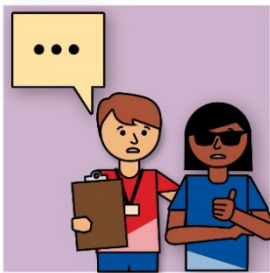
What's Part 1 about?



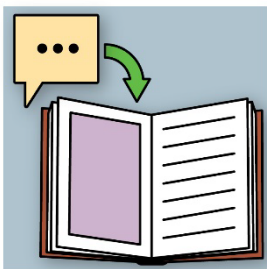
Part 1 is about the stories people with disability told us.



We heard from many people about what happened to them.



Some people agreed to let us share their stories.

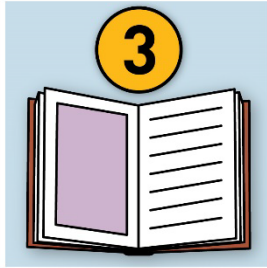


We used what they shared to create **narratives**.



A narrative is a story that explains:

- what happened to someone
- their experiences.



Part 1 includes 3 books of narratives.

Part 1 also includes creative work that people with disability shared with us, including:

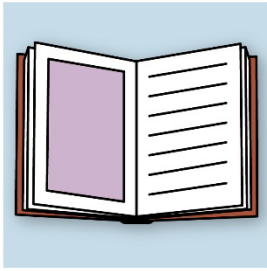


- art



- poems.

The narratives

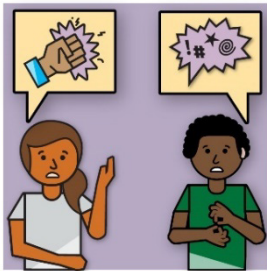


We created **1,095** narratives.

Each narrative shares a person's experience with:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

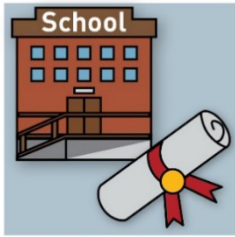


People shared many different experiences.

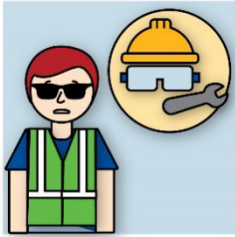


But some topics kept coming up in many of the narratives.

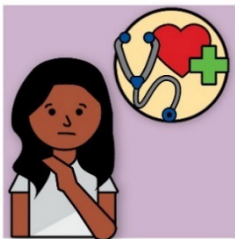
For example, people shared their bad experiences with:



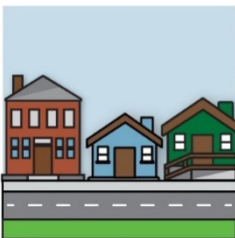
- education – like schools, TAFE or universities



- finding and keeping a job



- health care

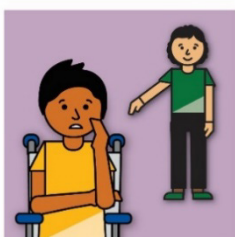


- housing



- getting **funding**

Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services.



- **ableism.**

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



We also heard about the experiences of different groups of people with disability.

This includes:



- First Nations people with disability



- **culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD)** people with disability.



CaLD people:

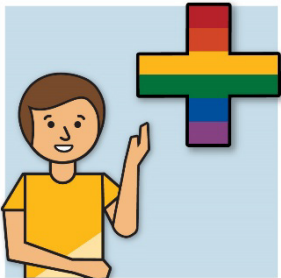
- come from different cultures and backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



We also heard about the experiences of **LGBTIQA+** people with disability.



The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.

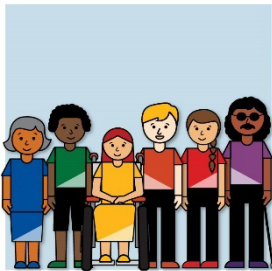


The '+' is for people who are part of this community but talk about themselves using other words.

The voices of people with disability



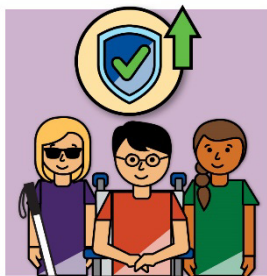
We want people with disability to be able to share their stories in their own voice.



And we want to share their stories with the community.



We want to help the community understand issues that people with disability face.



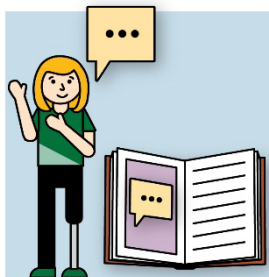
We hope this can make the community safer for people with disability.



We also hope it can make the community more **inclusive**.

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.

In their own words



The narratives share the experiences of people with disability in their own words.



It's important to use the words that people shared with us.



It reminds us that there are lots of different people in Australia.

And they communicate in different ways.



This means sometimes narratives might include:

- rude words
- words that other people don't use.

How we keep people's information safe

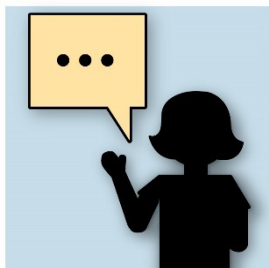


We changed some parts of people's stories to keep their personal information safe.



This includes changing the names of:

- people
- places.



It means other people can't find out:

- who the narratives are about
- who shared their stories with us.



This protects the people who shared their story.



It also protects people who might not have had a chance to explain what they think happened.

Where you can find the narratives



You can find the narratives on our website.

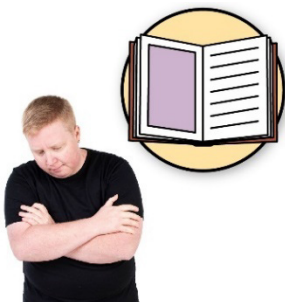
[www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/
submissions](http://www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/submissions)



You can also order printed copies of the *Final report* from our website.

[www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/
contact-and-support/order-resources](http://www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/contact-and-support/order-resources)

Before you read the narratives



The narratives are about bad experiences that people with disability had.



This means many of them include details and stories that might upset you.



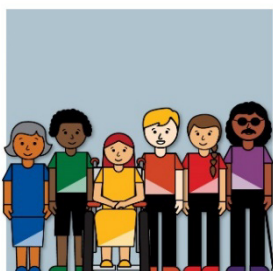
If you get upset and need support, there are services you can contact.

Their details are on page 23.

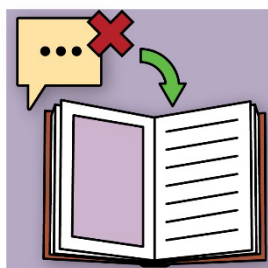
Thank you



We thank everyone who shared their story with us.

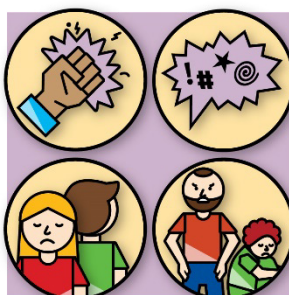


Our work could not have happened without you.



We couldn't use every story to create narratives.

But they all helped us understand how people with disability experience:

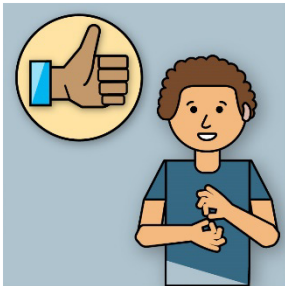


- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

And every story helped us come up with ideas about how to:



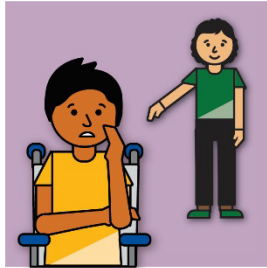
- keep people with disability safe



- make life better for people with disability.

Word list

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



Ableism

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



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD)

CaLD people:

- come from different cultures and backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Funding

Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



LGBTIQA+

The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.

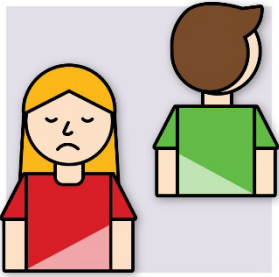
The '+' is for people who are part of this community but talk about themselves using other words.



Narrative

A narrative is a story that explains:

- what happened to someone
- their experiences.



Neglect

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



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 improve.



Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



Violence

Violence is when someone hurts you physically.

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.

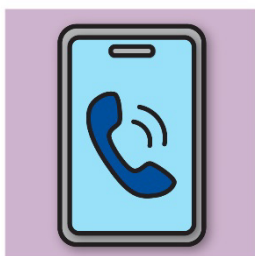


You can call them any time.

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

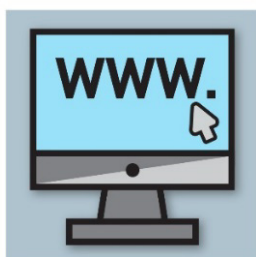
The Disability Royal Commission has ended.

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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Exploitation of People with Disability