



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

# Beyond the Royal Commission

Easy Read version



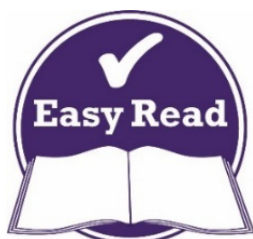
**Final Report**  
Volume 12

## How to use this report



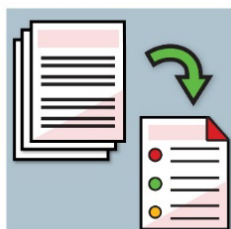
The Disability Royal Commission  
(the Royal Commission) wrote this report.

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 12 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.



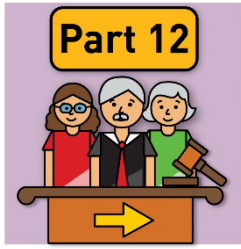
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 30.



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 12 – Beyond the Royal Commission.



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

[www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au](http://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 12?

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## What's the Disability Royal Commission?

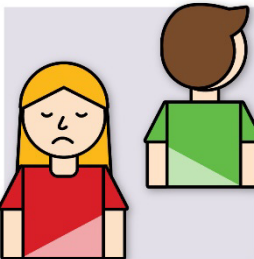
We wanted to work out the best ways to stop people with disability experiencing:



- **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.

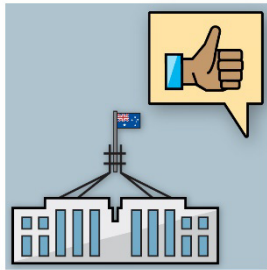


The last thing we need to do is share what we **recommend**.

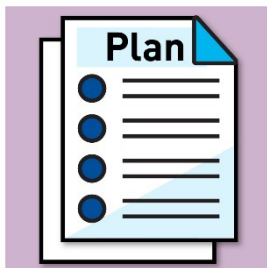
When we recommend something, we share an idea about how to make things better for people with disability.



## What's Part 12 about?



Part 12 explains what governments need to do about what we recommend.



Part 12 includes a plan we made that governments can use.

The plan has 4 steps.

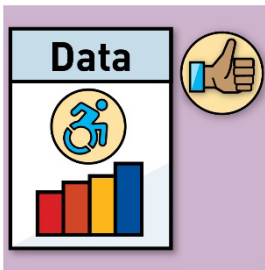


Part 12 also shares ideas about how to make sure new **policies** support people with disability.



Policies are:

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



This includes making sure governments have good **data** about disability.



When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.

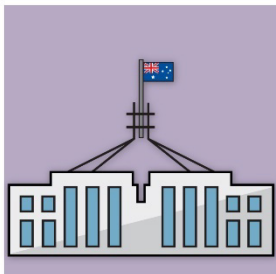


Part 12 also explains what has already changed because of the Royal Commission.



## Our plan

We made this plan for:



- the Australian Government



- state and territory governments.



There are 4 steps in our plan.

## Step 1

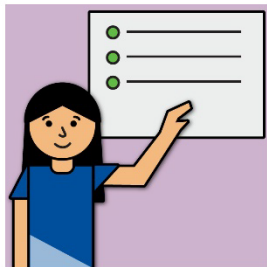


Governments should each write a response to our final report.

They should explain:



- if they will do what we recommend



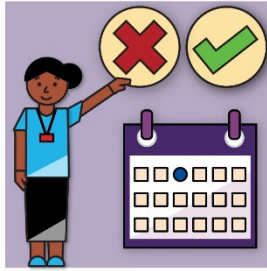
- how they will do it.



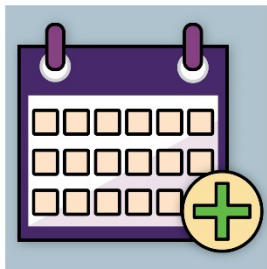
They should also explain what they won't do.

And why they decided not to.

They can also explain:



- when they will make a decision



- if they need more time to decide.



Governments should share their responses with the community by 31 March 2024.

## Step 2



Governments must work with others to make life better for people with disability.

This includes working with:

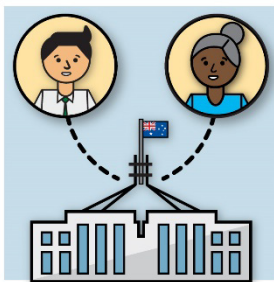


- disability organisations



- people with disability.

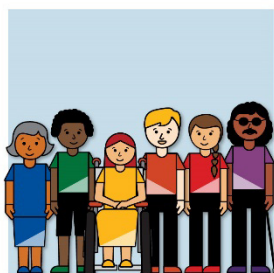
And they need to find ways to change things in:



- all parts of the government



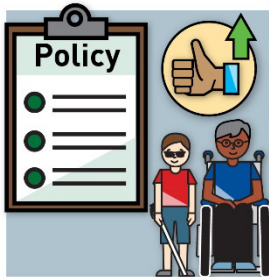
- organisations



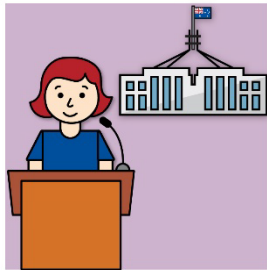
- the community.



The Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC) should support governments to do what we recommend.



The DRMC is a group of **ministers** from around Australia who make policies better for people with disability.



A minister leads an area of government.



Governments should share their progress with the DRMC every 6 months.

They should share:



- what they have done to make our ideas happen



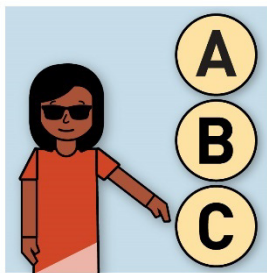
- any issues or risks they face.

### Step 3

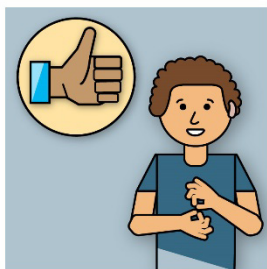


We recommend the Government creates a National Disability Commission to make sure people treat people with disability fairly.

They should make sure people with disability can:



- choose how they live their lives



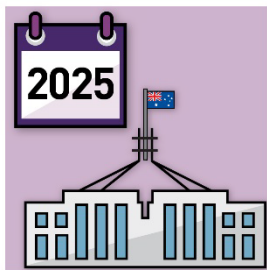
- live a good life.



The National Disability Commission should write reports about how well each part of the government uses our ideas.



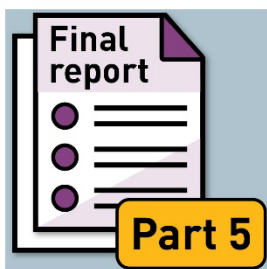
The reports should include what people with disability think about how governments are using our ideas.



They should share their first report with the Australian Government in 2025.



And share a new report every year.



You can learn more about the National Disability Commission in Part 5 of our *Final report*.



## Step 4



It is important to know how well our ideas are working.



The National Disability Commission should find ways to tell if our ideas are working.



And if our ideas make life better for people with disability.

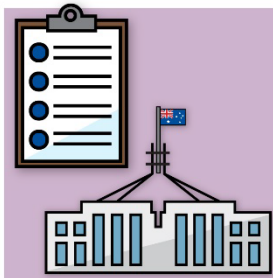
They should write a report about how life has changed for people with disability after:



- 5 years

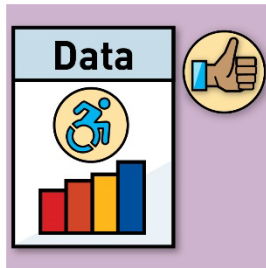


- 10 years.



And they should share these reports with the Government.

## Making things better



It's important to have good data about people with disability.

Good data can help governments:



- make policies that support people with disability



- know if policies are working.



It can also help the community know if governments are supporting people the right way.

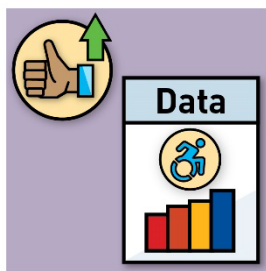


It was hard to get good data during the Royal Commission.

This made it hard to understand how to keep people with disability safe from:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

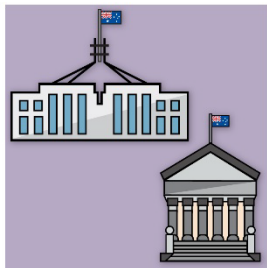


We have some ideas about how to get better data.

## Asking the same questions



We recommend all governments use the same questions about disability when they collect data.



This includes:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.

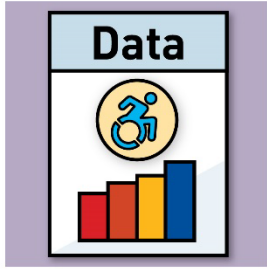


This will make sure we can link data from all around Australia.

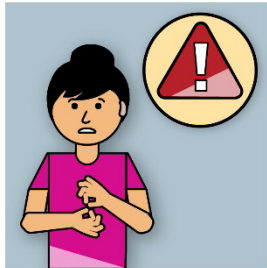


Many government services collect data about the people who use them.

People with disability use these services too.



These services should collect data about how people with disability use them.



This will help governments understand how other issues affect people with disability.

## Collecting more data about certain groups



We found that some groups of people with disability are more at risk than others.

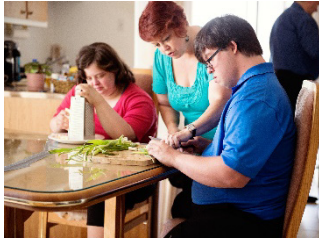


But we don't have enough data to make policies that can keep them safe.

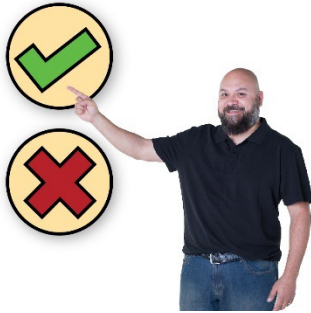


For example, people with disability who need support to communicate.

Or people with disability who live in a home:



- with other people with disability



- where support workers make decisions for them.

These people might not:



- get support from family and friends

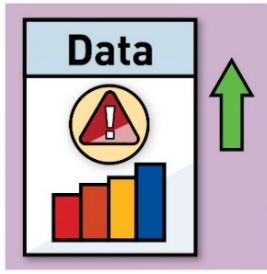


- have anyone to help them speak up about how support workers treat them



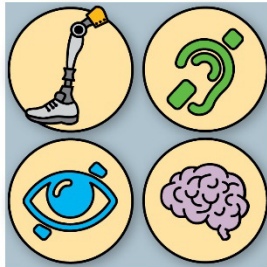
- have the chance to take part in the community.



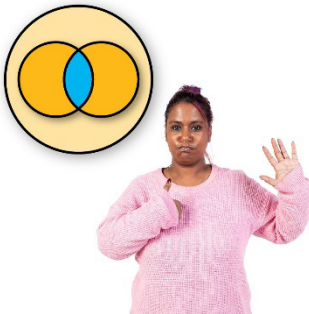


We recommend services collect more data about groups who are at risk.

This includes collecting data about:



- what type of disability people have



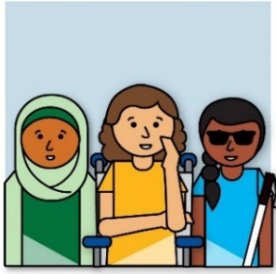
- how **intersectionality** might affect their experiences.

Intersectionality can affect experiences when people treat people with disability differently because of both:



- their disability
- other things about them they cannot change, like their age or background.

Intersectionality can affect:



- women with disability



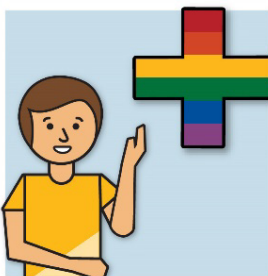
- children and young people with disability



- **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 don't talk about themselves using one of these words.

Intersectionality can also affect:



- First Nations people with disability



- **culturally and linguistically diverse** people with disability.

We just say CaLD people.

CaLD people:



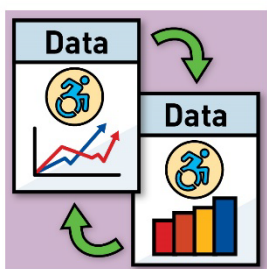
- come from different cultures and backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.

## The National Disability Data Asset



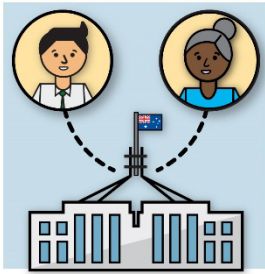
We recommend that all governments support the National Disability Data Asset.

We just call it the data asset.



The data asset is a way to link data about people with disability.

The data asset will get data:



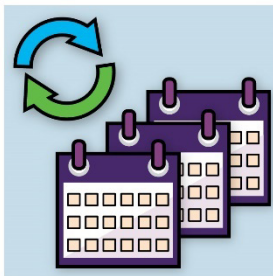
- from different parts of the government



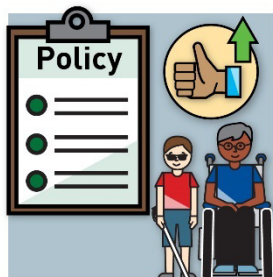
- about different areas of people's lives.



It will help us better understand the experiences of people with disability.



Governments can use the data asset to find out how things change over time.

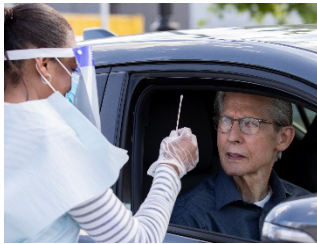


And they can use it to make policies better for people with disability.

## What's already changed



Some things have already changed because of our work on the Royal Commission.



For example, the Australian Government used what we learned to better support people with disability during COVID-19.



Governments also changed their policies about when schools can tell students with disability not to come to school because of how they behave.



The Government also checked how well **Disability Employment Services (DES)** are working.



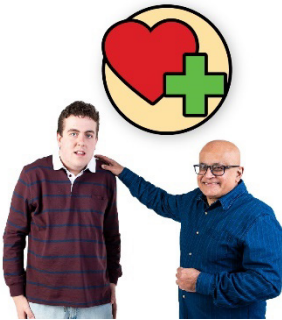
The Government runs DES.



DES helps people with disability find and keep jobs.



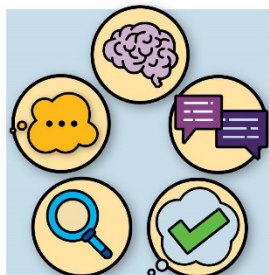
The Government wanted to find out how well DES supports people to find and keep a job.



The Government have also looked into better ways to support people with **cognitive disabilities** with their health.

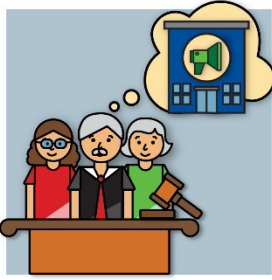
A cognitive disability can affect how people:

- think
- communicate
- understand
- focus on what they're doing
- remember.



And the Government is doing more to keep women and girls with disability safe from violence.

## Learning from others



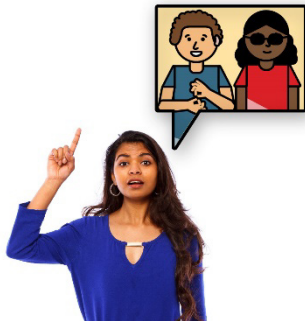
The Royal Commission builds on the work of disability **advocacy organisations**.



Advocacy organisations support people with disability.

They can help you have your say.

They can also give you information and advice.



They spoke up about the experiences of people with disability for many years.



We could not have had the Royal Commission without their work.



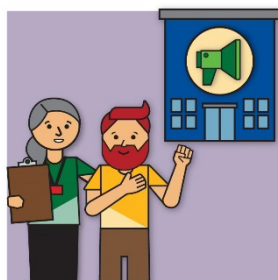
## Word list

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



### **Abuse**

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.

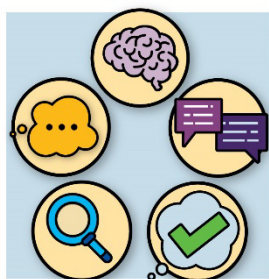


### **Advocacy organisations**

Advocacy organisations support people with disability.

They can help you have your say.

They can also give you information and advice.



### **Cognitive disability**

A cognitive disability can affect how people:

- think
- communicate
- understand
- focus on what they're doing
- remember.

## Data



When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.



## Disability Employment Services (DES)

The Government runs DES.

DES helps people with disability find and keep jobs.



## Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.

## Intersectionality

Intersectionality can affect experiences when people treat people with disability differently because of both:

- their disability
- other things about them they cannot change, like their age or background.

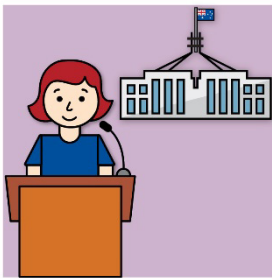


## LGBTIQA+



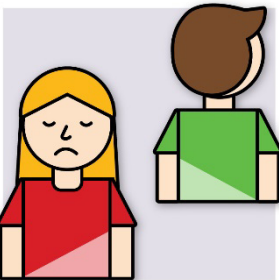
The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.

The '+' is for people who are part of this community but don't talk about themselves using one of these words.



## Minister

A minister leads an area of government.



## 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.



## Recommend

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

## Rights



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.

## 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.



## 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](http://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](http://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.

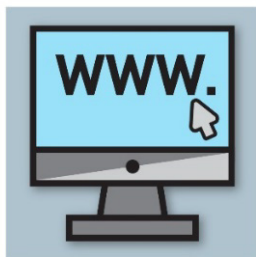


## Support to contact the Attorney-General's Department



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](http://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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