



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

About the Royal Commission

Easy Read version



Final Report
Volume 2

How to use this report



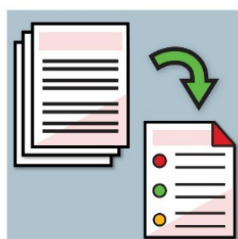
The Disability Royal Commission
(the Royal Commission) wrote this report.

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 2 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.



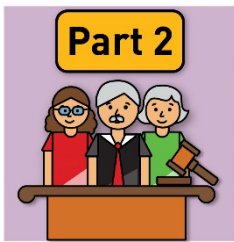
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 36.



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 2 – About the Royal Commission.



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:

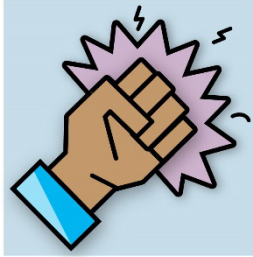
- land
- waters.

What's in Part 2?

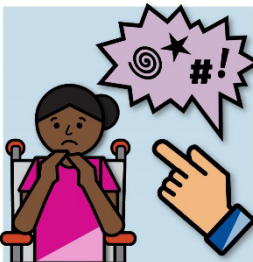
What is the Disability Royal Commission?	5
What's Part 2 about?	7
How we got started	9
How we worked with the community	19
Our organisation	31
Word list	36
Support for you	43
Contact us	45

What is the Disability Royal Commission?

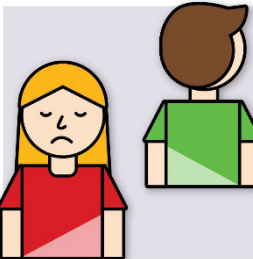
We wanted to work out the best ways to stop people with disability experiencing:



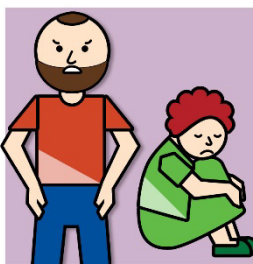
- **violence** – when someone hurts you physically



- **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.

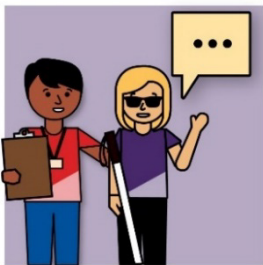
What's Part 2 about?



This report is about how we started the Royal Commission.



It's also about how we worked with the community.



This includes how we supported people who shared their story with us.

And how we collected:



- information



- **evidence.**

When people give evidence, they tell us about their experiences.



This report is also about the people who worked on the Royal Commission.

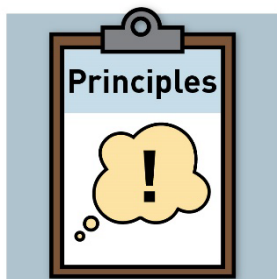
It explains our:



- **funding** – money from the Australian Government to pay for the Royal Commission



- organisation



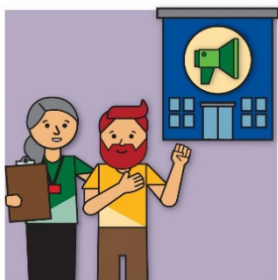
- **principles** – important ideas that we always think about.

How we got started

For many years, disability **advocacy organisations** had spoken up about:



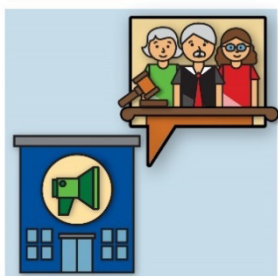
- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.



Advocacy organisations support people with disability.

They can help you have your say.

They can also give you information and advice.



Advocacy organisations asked the Australian Government to have a Royal Commission.



The Government heard from a lot of people in the **disability sector**.

The disability sector includes:



- people with disability



- support workers



- advocacy organisations



- **providers.**



Providers support people by delivering a service.



In April 2019, the Government started the Royal Commission.



The *Royal Commissions Act 1902* (Cth) explains what the Royal Commission can do.

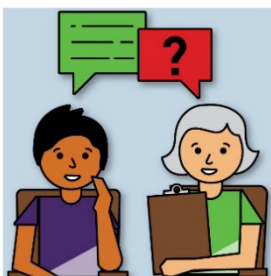
We call it the Act.



The Government changed the Act in 2019.

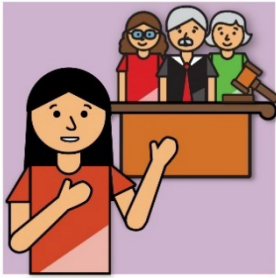


They changed it so we could have **private sessions**.



A private session is a private meeting between:

- someone with a story to tell
- one of our **Commissioners**.



The Commissioners are the people in charge of the Royal Commission.



In 2021 the Government changed the Act again.



They changed it so we can keep people's personal information safe after the Royal Commission ends.

The Commissioners



The Government chose **6** people to be Commissioners.



They chose people with different:

- backgrounds
- experience.



The Honourable Ronald Sackville AO QC lead the Royal Commission.

He was the Chair of the Commission.

The other Commissioners included:



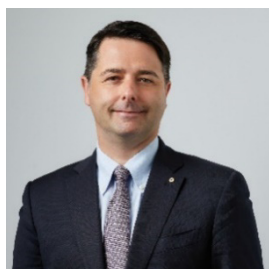
- Ms Barbara Bennet PSM



- Dr Rhonda Galbally AC



- Ms Andrea Mason OAM



- Mr Alastair McEwin AM

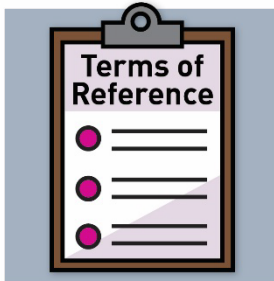


- the Honourable John Ryan AM.



The letters after each Commissioner's name are for awards they have earned.

The Terms of Reference



The **Terms of Reference** is a list of things the Royal Commission looked into.

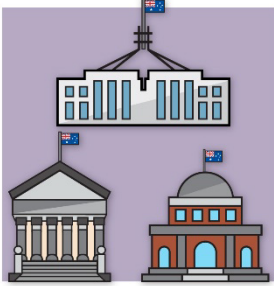


Many people from the disability sector had their say about what should be in the Terms of Reference.

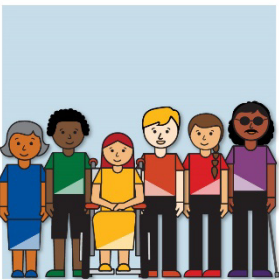


The Terms of Reference explained that we should look into what certain groups can change to keep people with disability safe.

These groups included:



- governments



- the community



- institutions.



An institution is any organisation set up to help people.

It includes:



- government services



- religious organisations

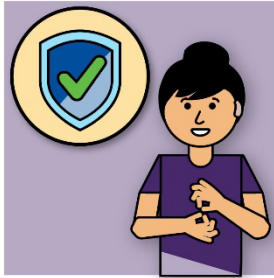


- education – like universities



- organisations that run community activities – like sports.

They also explained that we should look into ways to help people with disability feel:



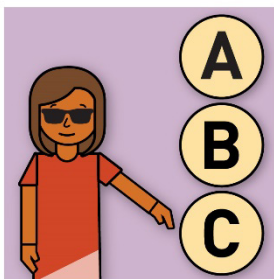
- safe



- included.



People with disability have the right to be safe in their community.



This includes making sure people with disability have choice and control.



The Terms of Reference explained that we should focus on what people with disability experience.



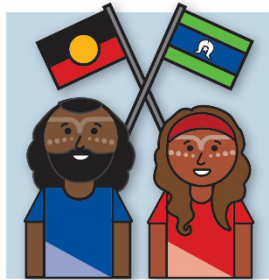
They also explained that we should think about **intersectionality**.



Intersectionality happens when people treat people with disability differently because of both:

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

The Terms of Reference also explained that we should think about the different experiences of:



- First Nations people



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



CaLD people:

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

How we worked with the community

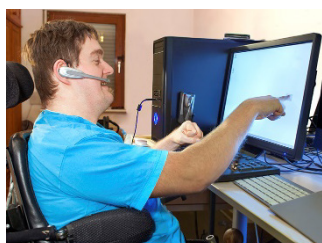
It was important that we understood how people with disability experience:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.



And that we supported them to share their stories.



We used the **media** to let people around Australia know about what we were doing.

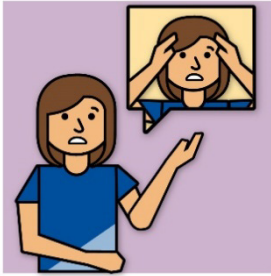
The media is where people get information.

It includes:

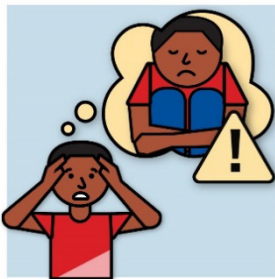


- TV
- radio
- newspapers
- social media, like Facebook.

How we supported the community



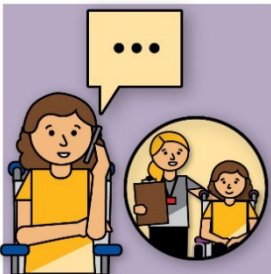
We thought about how the people we wanted to hear from might have **trauma**.



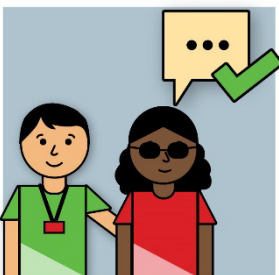
Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.



We provided support for people from the first time they contacted us.



And we kept supporting people after they had finished sharing their story.



We helped to connect people with free services when our work affected them.

This included services that:



- can help you have your say



- support you with the way you feel



- give you advice about the law.

Public hearings



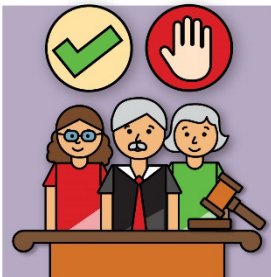
A **public hearing** is a meeting that follows strict rules.

Anyone can watch a public hearing.

And we share the records of what happened so anyone can see them.

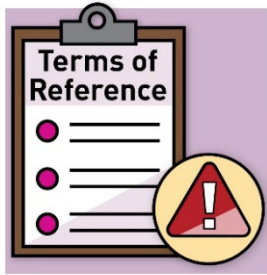


We had **32** public hearings around Australia.



We also had public hearings to:

- start the Royal Commission
- finish the Royal Commission.



We had public hearings to look into different issues in our Terms of Reference.

The public hearings gave people with disability a chance to share evidence:



- about their experiences



- for anyone to see.

Community activities



We ran more than **700** community activities around Australia.

These activities helped us connect with:



- people with disability



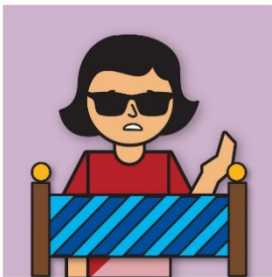
- their families



- people who support them.



We also found ways to connect with some groups who face **barriers** to taking part.



A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.

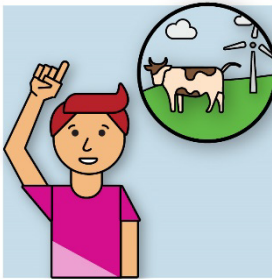
For example, we connected with:



- First Nations people with disability



- CaLD people with disability



- people with disability who live far away from cities and towns.

Submissions



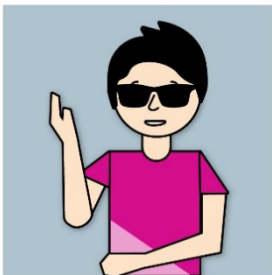
A **submission** is a document or recording that explains:

- your experience
- an idea you have.



We received **7,944** submissions.

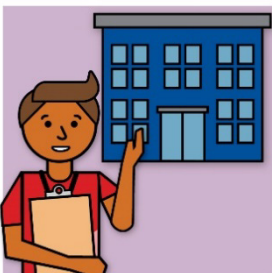
They came from:



- individuals



- groups



- organisations.

Private sessions



The Commissioners ran **1,552** private sessions before 31 December 2022.



People from the community could ask for a private session if they wanted to:

- share their story
- tell it directly to a Commissioner.

Research



We wrote **28** reports about our research.

We did research to find out:



- the best ways to keep people with disability safe



- how well government **policies** support people with disability.



Policies are:

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



We also wrote **14** issues papers.



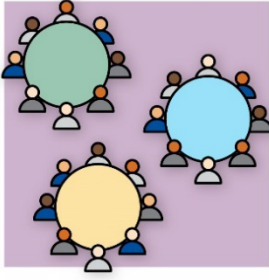
We used issues papers to find out:

- what the community thinks about some important issues
- how we could help.

Policies



We had **9** workshops to talk about how policies affect people with disability.



We also had **3 roundtables** about how to make better policies.



A roundtable is a group of people who talk about a topic.

Each person has a say about the topic.

Advisory groups



An **advisory group** is a group of people who work with us to share what:

- is working well
- needs to work better.

2 advisory groups helped to guide our work:



- the Disability Strategic Engagement Group (DSEG)



- the First Nations Peoples Strategic Advisory Group (FNPSAG).

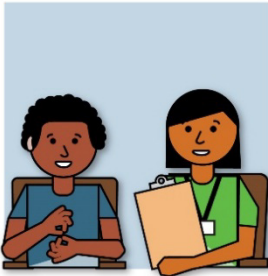
The DESG helped us connect with:



- people with disability



- people who speak up for people with disability.



The FNPSAG guided the work we did with First Nations people with disability.

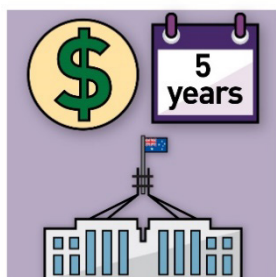
Our organisation



Many people worked on the Royal Commission.

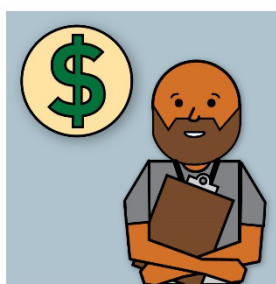


They supported the Commissioners to do their work.



The Australian Government gave us **\$310.9** million of funding over 5 years.

This funding supported our work.



The Government also gave funding to other services.

We had offices in:



- Brisbane



- Sydney



- Canberra.



We made sure our offices were **accessible** for people with disability.



When a place is accessible, everyone can:

- find and use it
- move around inside it.



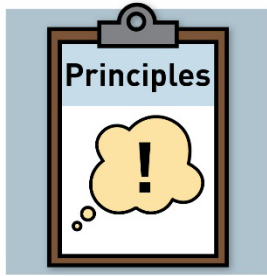
And we made sure our offices were **inclusive**.



When an office is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.

Our principles



We followed **7** principles in our work.

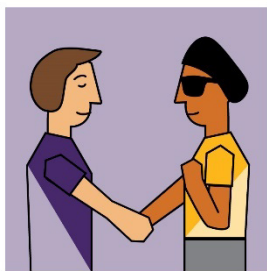
Our principles were:



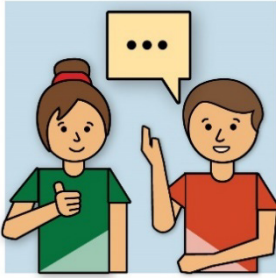
- to support the equal rights of people with disability



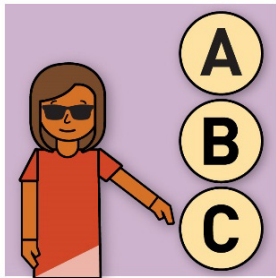
- to include all people with disability by supporting them to take part



- to respect people with disability and their rights



- to treat all people the way they should be treated



- to respect people with disability's right to have choice and control



- to understand the lives people with disability want for themselves



- to make sure First Nations peoples could decide how they wanted to take part.

Word list

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



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Accessible

When a place is accessible, everyone can:

- find and use it
- move around inside it.



Advisory group

An advisory group is a group of people who work with us to share what:

- is working well
- needs to work better.



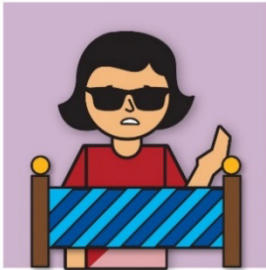
Advocacy organisations

Advocacy organisations support people with disability.

They can help you have your say.

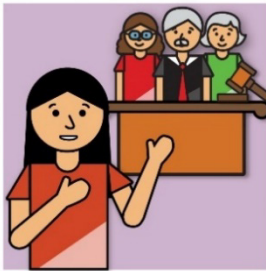
They can also give you information and advice.

Barrier



A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.



Commissioners

The Commissioners are the people in charge of the Royal Commission.



Culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD)

CaLD people:

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

Disability sector

The disability sector includes:

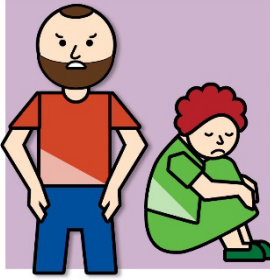


- people with disability
- support workers
- advocacy organisations
- providers.



Evidence

When people give evidence, they tell us about their experiences.



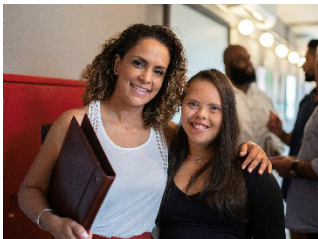
Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Funding

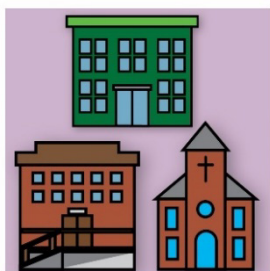
Funding is money from the Australian Government to pay for the Royal Commission.



Inclusive

When an office is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



Institution

An institution is any organisation set up to help people.

Intersectionality



Intersectionality happens when people treat people with disability differently because of both:

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

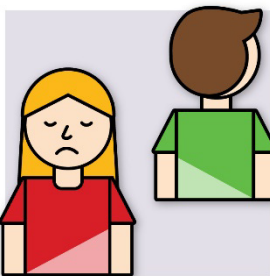
Media

The media is where people get information.

It includes:



- TV
- radio
- newspapers
- social media, like Facebook.



Neglect

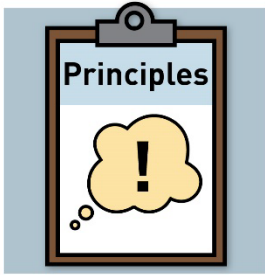
Neglect is when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.

Policies

Policies are:

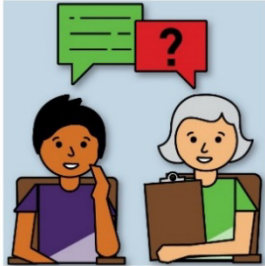


- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from.



Principles

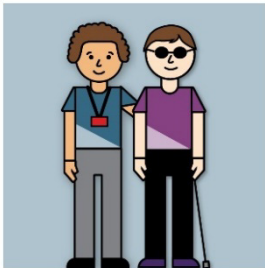
Principles are important ideas that we always think about.



Private session

A private session is a private meeting between:

- someone with a story to tell
- one of our Commissioners.



Providers

Providers support people by delivering a service.



Public hearing

A public hearing is a meeting that follows strict rules.

Anyone can watch a public hearing.

And we share the records of what happened so anyone can see them.



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.



Roundtable

A roundtable is a group of people who talk about a topic.

Each person has a say about the topic.



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.



Submission

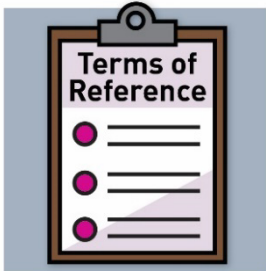
A submission is a document or recording that explains:

- your experience
- an idea you have.



Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference is a list of things the Royal Commission looked into.

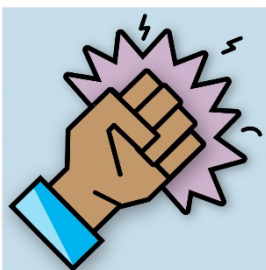


Trauma

Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.



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.



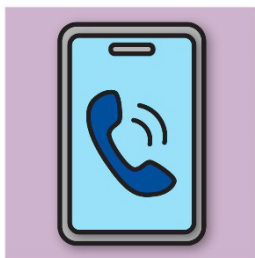
You can call them any time.

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

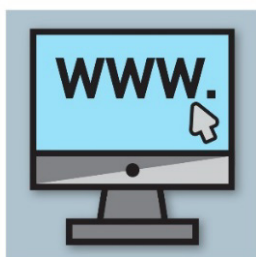
The Disability Royal Commission has ended.

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:

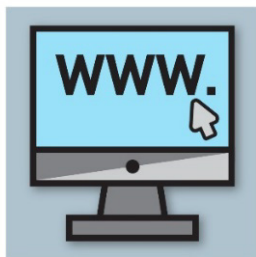
- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.

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

The images in this Easy Read document may not be reused without permission.



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