



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

The rights of people with disability

Easy Read version



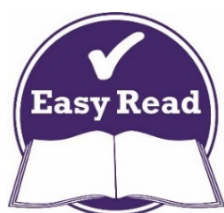
Final Report
Volume 4

How to use this report



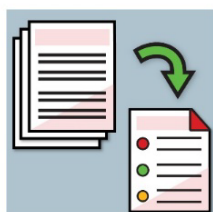
The Disability Royal Commission
(the Royal Commission) wrote this report.

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 4 of our *Final report*.

A summary only includes the most important ideas.

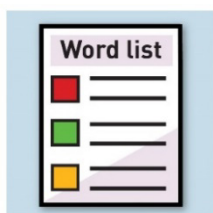


In the *Final report*, Part 4 is called
Realising the rights of people with disability.



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 26.



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 4 – The rights 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:

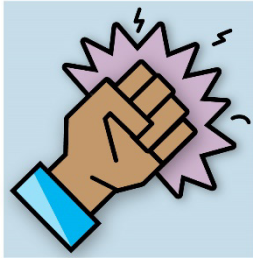
- land
- waters.

What's in Part 4?

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What is the Disability Royal Commission?

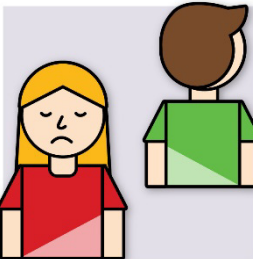
We wanted to work out the best ways to stop people with disability from experiencing:



- **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.



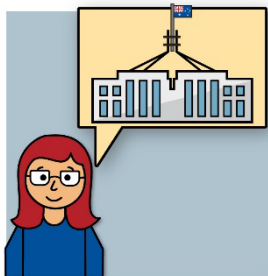
The last thing we need to do is share what we **recommend**.

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

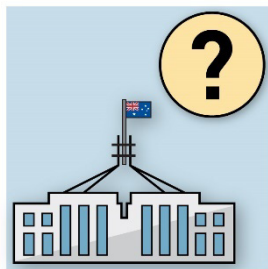
What's Part 4 about?



Part 4 is about how the Australian Government should protect the rights of people with disability.



We explain how the Government does this now.



And what else the Government could do.



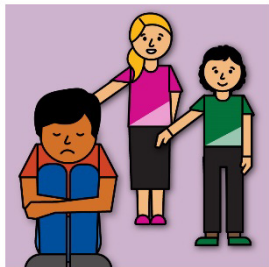
In Part 4, the Royal Commission also recommends a new law to protect the rights of people with disability.



The new law would be called the Disability Rights Act. In this document we just call it the Act.



The Act would explain the rights of people with disability to live without **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when someone treats you differently because of a part of who you are.

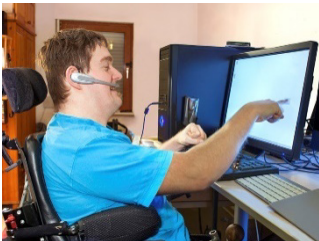


And the Act would also make sure the Government provides **interpreters** when people with disability need support to use their services.



An interpreter is someone who:

- speaks your language
- helps you understand what someone is saying.



The Act would also make sure the Government provides information in **accessible** ways.



When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

Rules and laws about rights



The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability* is an agreement between different countries.

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



The CRPD explains how people with disability have the same rights as everybody else.

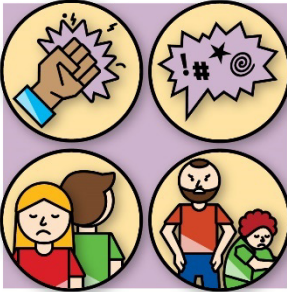


This means Australia must have laws that protect the rights of people with disability.



Australia already has some of these laws.

But they don't do enough to keep people with disability safe from:

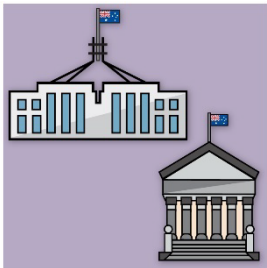


- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

Governments in Australia need stronger laws to:



- protect the rights of people with disability
- help people when they experience discrimination.



This includes:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.



Governments also need to help the community understand the rights of people with disability.

Rights in the Royal Commission



The rights of people with disability were an important part of the Royal Commission.

We thought about them in all parts of our work.



This helped us understand how to make Australia more **inclusive**.

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.

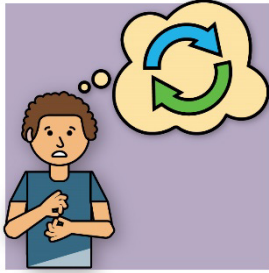


We thought about rights when we decided what to recommend in our *Final report*.

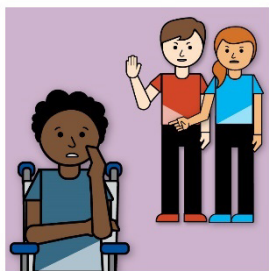


This includes the rights of people with disability to have a say in decisions that affect them.

We also thought about how having a disability can:



- change how people experience things



- affect other types of discrimination.



For example, how disability affects First Nations peoples.

A new Disability Rights Act



Australia needs better laws to protect the rights of people with disability.

What we recommend

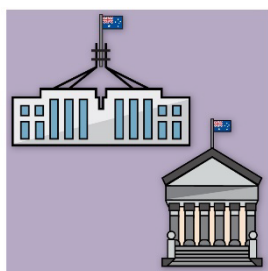


We recommend the Australian Government creates a Disability Rights Act.



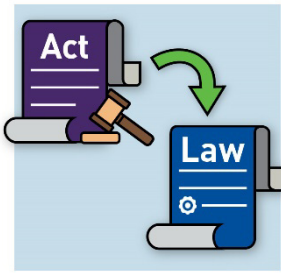
The Act should clearly explain the rights of people with disability.

And how each government should protect them.



This includes:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.



The Government should make the Act into a law.



The Government should involve people with disability when they create the Act.



They should also involve organisations that speak up for people with disability.



And other people who support people with disability.

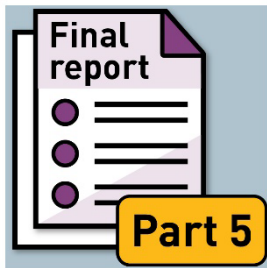


We recommend making a National Disability Commission to make sure the Act works well.



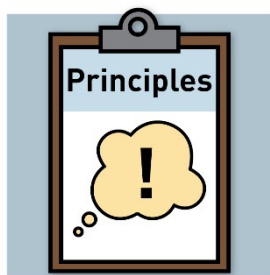
The National Disability Commission would check if life for people with disability gets:

- better
- worse.



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

Principles for the Act



We also recommend the Act include **principles**.

Principles are important ideas people should always think about.

The principles should:



- support the rights of people with disability in Australia

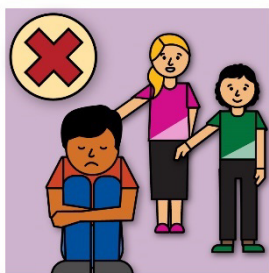


- follow the rules in the CRPD.



The Government should work with people with disability to make the principles.

No discrimination



We also recommend making sure the Act clearly explains that people with disability have the right to live without discrimination.



This means people with disability should not have to fight harder than other people for their rights.



The Act should also clearly explain that the law should be fair for all people.



This means people with disability might need support to take part in the **justice system**.

The justice system includes police, the courts, the law and prisons.

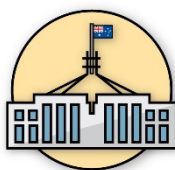


And the law should protect people with disability the same way it protects other people.

Accessible communication and information



The Act should clearly explain how people with disability have the same rights to information as people without a disability.



And it should explain what the Australian Government must do to support these rights.

What we recommend

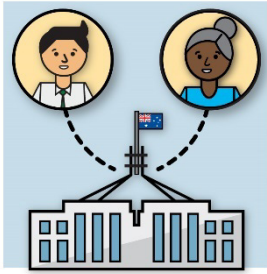
Interpreters



We recommend the Act include rules that make sure all parts of the Australian Government provide interpreters.

And pay for them.

This includes Government:



- departments



- services



- agencies.



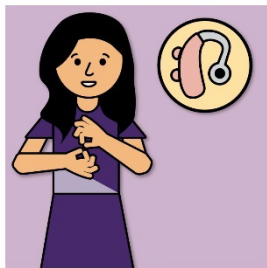
The Government should do this when a person with disability needs an interpreter to:

- use a Government service
- have contact with the Government.

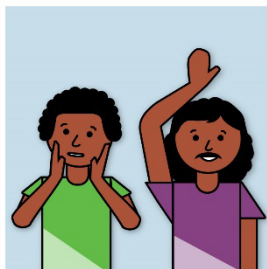
The Act should also make sure the Government provides interpreters who can use:



- languages other than English



- Auslan



- First Nations sign languages.

Accessible information



We also recommend the Act include rules about accessible information.

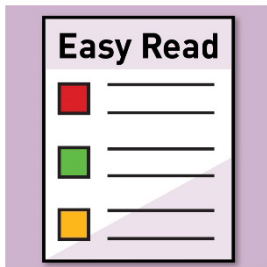


The Act should make sure the Government shares all information in at least 2 accessible ways.

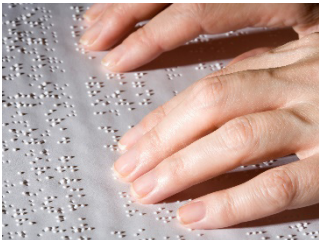
For example:



- Auslan



- Easy Read



- braille.

The Government should do this when they:



- share information with the community



- ask to hear from people with disability.

What the Disability Rights Act would change

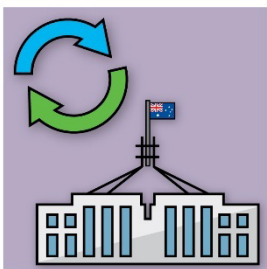
The Disability Rights Act would use the law to support the rights of people with disability to:



- use supports and services



- get accessible information.

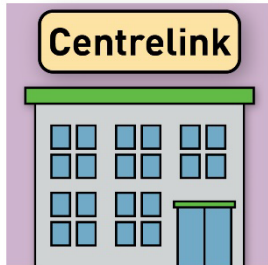


This means parts of the Government would have to change the way they work.

This might include:

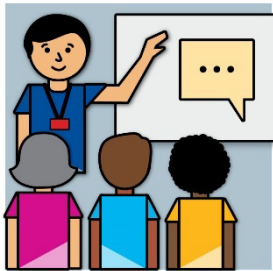


- the National Disability Insurance Agency

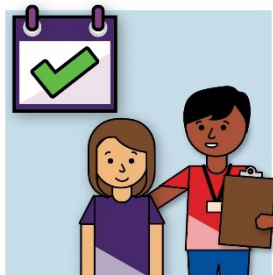


- Centrelink.

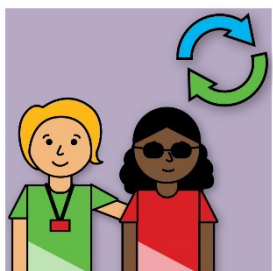
These parts of the Government might need to:



- train staff to provide services to someone who needs support to communicate



- give people with disability enough time to get support for a meeting



- make sure they have someone who can support a person with disability.

Word list

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



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Accessible

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Discrimination

Discrimination is when someone treats you differently because of a part of who you are.



Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



Interpreter

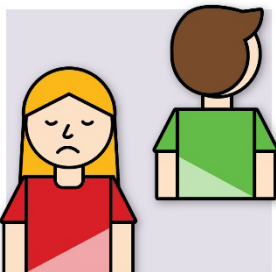
An interpreter is someone who:

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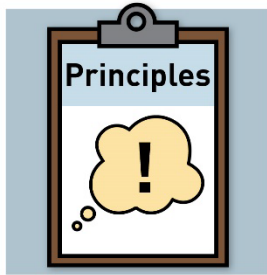
Justice system

The justice system includes police, the courts, the law and prisons.



Neglect

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



Principles

Principles are important ideas people should always think about.



Recommend

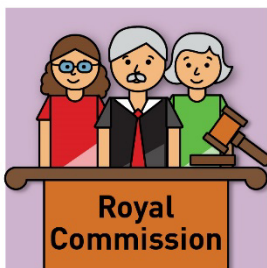
When we recommend something, we share an idea about how to make things better for people with disability.



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

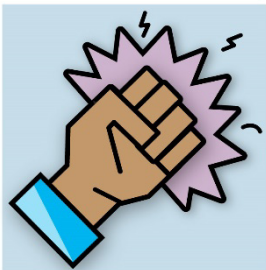
A summary only includes the most important ideas.



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.

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

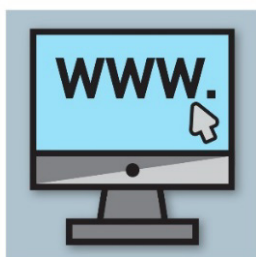
The Disability Royal Commission has ended.

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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