



Submissions



The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission) invites interested members of the public and institutions to make submissions using the form below.

Submissions made at this stage of the Commission's work will be treated as public documents and will form part of Commission records. People who wish to make confidential submissions will have that opportunity shortly.

How to make a submission

The Disability Royal Commission wants to hear from you about any issue relevant to its Terms of Reference arising for you, a family member, a friend or someone you work for or with, or as a carer.

This form is split into three sections:

- Section 1: Questions about your experiences
- Section 2: Anything else you would like to tell us about
- Section 3: Questions about you

To help you, the Commission has issued a Guidance Note setting out definitions of key words used in the Terms of Reference such as 'violence and abuse', 'neglect' and 'exploitation'. Please read the Guidance Note or visit the [Submissions page of our website](#).¹

Further assistance

If you are having difficulty using the form or require an accessible format please contact the Royal Commission on telephone 1800 517 199 (between 9:00am to 5:00pm AEDT Monday-Friday). If you have concerns that information that you are considering providing to the Commission may be defamatory, you should consider seeking independent legal advice.

¹ <http://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/submissions>

Guidance on making a submission

The Commission has defined a number of key words used in the terms of reference. The definitions are not necessarily final but they are intended to guide people with disability, stakeholders and other interested parties in their interactions with the Commission. These interactions include, but are not limited to, making submissions, complying with requests or notices to produce documents or information and participating in hearings and consultations conducted by the Commission.

Violence and abuse

Violence and abuse include assault, sexual assault, constraints, restrictive practices (physical and chemical), forced treatments, forced interventions, humiliation and harassment, financial and economic abuse and significant violations of privacy and dignity on a systemic or individual basis.

Neglect

Neglect includes physical and emotional neglect, passive neglect and wilful deprivation. Neglect can be a single significant incident or a systemic issue that involves depriving a person with disability of the basic necessities of life such as food, drink, shelter, access, mobility, clothing, education, medical care and treatment.

Exploitation

The improper use of another person or the improper use of or withholding of another person's assets, labour, employment or resources including taking physical, sexual, financial or economic advantage.

Support services


The Australian Government is funding a legal advisory service and advocacy support for people who want assistance to make a submission. This support will be available shortly. If you would like to access this support, please subscribe to our Mailing list on [our website](#).² We will let you know as soon as support services are available.


² <https://www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au>



Section 1: Questions about your experiences

These questions are just a guide. You can answer as many or as few as you like, or if you like, you can make a submission on any issue covered by the [Terms of Reference](#).³

<i>Incidents of violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation</i>	
<p>1. Have you been or are you aware of a person with disability being exposed to violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation? If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. What happened?b. Did it happen once or a number of times?	

<i>Complaint processes and outcomes</i>	
<p>2. Have you made a complaint about violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation on your own behalf or on behalf of a person with disability? If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. What was the complaint?b. Who did you make the complaint to?c. Was the complaint followed up?d. What was the outcome of the complaint?e. Were you satisfied with the outcome? If yes, why? If no, why not?	

³ <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/about/Pages/Terms-of-reference.aspx>



3. Do you have concerns about access to places and services and whether this has placed you or people with disability at risk of violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation? If yes:
- a. What are your concerns?
 - b. Have you raised those concerns with anybody?
 - c. Who did you raise your concerns with?
 - d. What was the outcome?



4. Are you concerned that the quality or safety of disability support services has placed you or people with disability at risk of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation? If yes:
- a. What type of service?
 - b. What are your concerns?
 - c. Have you raised your concerns with anybody?
 - d. Who did you raise your concerns with?
 - e. What was the outcome?

Direct support for people with disability



5. If you provide support for a person with disability, is that in a paid or unpaid role? Are they formal or informal supports? What type of services do you provide? Why do you provide those services?

Best practice and innovation



6. Have you been part of a process that designed or implemented best practice or innovative models for the prevention, reporting and investigation of, or responding to violence against and abuse, neglect or exploitation of, people with disability? If yes:

- a. Where and when did this occur?
- b. What led to this process?
- c. How has it been implemented?
- d. Has there been any evaluation or independent assessment of this model?
- e. What was the outcome of the independent assessment or evaluation?

First Nations People



7. Do you believe that you or a person with disability missed out on any services, care or communication that resulted in or increased the risk of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation because of being a First Nations person?

Can you tell us about your experiences?

We are particularly interested in understanding your experiences based on where you live in Australia.

Provision of services



8. Do you believe that you or a person with disability missed out on any services, care or communication that has resulted in or increased the risk of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation because of:

- a. gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or intersex status,
- b. age,
- c. being born outside Australia,
- d. not speaking English as a first language, or
- e. any other personal attribute, reason or circumstance (please specify which).

If yes, please tell us what happened.

More inclusive society



9. What could be done to promote a more inclusive society that supports the independence of people with disability and their right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation?

Effective reporting, investigation and prevention



10. What is already working well to encourage reporting, investigation and/or prevention of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation towards people with disability?



Section 2: Anything else you would like to tell us about

Is there anything else that you would like to share with the Royal Commission that comes within the [Terms of Reference](#)?⁴

⁴ <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/about/Pages/Terms-of-reference.aspx>



Section 3: Questions about you

11. What is your name?								
12. What is your email address?								
13. What is your preferred contact phone number during business hours?								
14. In which state or territory do you live?								
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACT	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD	Outside Australia
15. What age bracket do you fall into?								
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under 18	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	65+		
16. Are you an Australian Citizen?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes				
				<input type="checkbox"/> No				
17. What is your gender?				<input type="checkbox"/> Woman				
				<input type="checkbox"/> Man				
				<input type="checkbox"/> Self-described				
18. Do you identify as?				<input type="checkbox"/> First Nations Person				
				<input type="checkbox"/> Person from a culturally or linguistically diverse background				
				<input type="checkbox"/> Person who identifies as LGBTQI+				

<p>19. Who are you making this submission for?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Myself</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Another person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> An institution</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A government or government entity (Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local)</p>
<p>20. Do you provide care to a person with disability?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>21. If you answered Yes to Question 20, what is your relationship to the person you care for?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Parent or guardian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sibling</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Friend</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Support worker</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____</p>
<p>22. If you answered Yes to Question 20, are you a:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Paid carer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid carer</p>
<p>23. If you wish to do so, please describe your disability or the disability of the person for whom you are making submissions:</p>	