

Disability Royal Commission

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Royal Commission?

A Royal Commission is the highest level of public inquiry in Australia. It can investigate issues, produce reports and make recommendations to the government.

Why do we need a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability investigating?

A person with an intellectual disability is **10 times more likely** to experience violence than a person without disability, a woman with a disability is **twice as likely** to report unwanted sex than a woman without disability – these statistics highlight why people with disability, their families and advocates have been waiting and calling for a robust investigation for decades.

A Royal Commission that has the weight, authority and investigative powers to examine accounts of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation by providing people with the opportunity to be able to tell their stories and seek justice.

What will the Royal Commission investigate?

The Royal Commission is an important opportunity for people with disability to have serious issues addressed, including human rights, personal safety, access to quality services and social inclusion.

It will explore issues relating to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability in homes with families, the justice system, schools, sporting clubs, workplaces, group homes, hospitals and community groups

How will the Royal Commission investigate?

The Royal Commission will take written submissions, request information, conduct hearings and undertake research. They will invite specific people and organisations to appear and discuss specific areas of focus. People can be compelled to appear or produce evidence.

Once this evidence has been gathered, examined and heard, the Commissioners will prepare a report with a series of recommendations for the government.

What will the Royal Commission do for people with disability?

The Royal Commission is an opportunity for change. Change in policy and laws that will aim to ensure violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability is stopped.

How will Endeavour Foundation respond to the Royal Commission?

We will engage fully and constructively with the Royal Commission and will respond promptly to any requests for information. Wherever possible we will make submissions recommending changes that would create a safer and more inclusive environment for people with disability.

We will also follow the Royal Commission closely to identify opportunities to improve. We will seek to learn all that we can about the causes of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with a disability, the best forms of prevention, and the most effective ways to address abuse when it occurs.

SUPPORT & SUBMISSIONS

How are people being supported during the Royal Commission?

The Royal Commission is committed to making accessible and appropriate arrangements for people with disability, and their families, carers and others, to engage with the Royal Commission, provide evidence and share information about their experiences.

Free legal advisory service is available for people who want to engage with the commission. Services are offered via:

- National Legal Aid (NLA) call 1800 771 800
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) call (03) 9418 5928

For more information please contact the Royal Commission on 1800 517 199 or DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

Can I make an anonymous submission?

People can make anonymous submissions if they like however, the Royal Commission will be unable to contact you if it needs to verify details.

Are all submissions made public?

Submissions are made public unless requested they not be or the Royal Commission considers it should not be made public.

You may request that, if your submission is made public, it is made public anonymously.

Submissions that are made publicly may include redactions made as the Royal Commission considers appropriate.

How can I keep up to date about the Royal Commission?

Endeavour Foundation will communicate with all stakeholders through normal channels such as email, letters, newsletters, magazines and via our website.

You can also visit the Disability Royal Commission website at <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx> for regular updates including Easy Read fact sheets, and translations into Auslan and 11 other languages.

I have another question about the Royal Commission?

If you have any questions about the Royal Commission, please email either

- Endeavour Foundation at drc@endeavour.com.au
- Royal Commission at DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au