

# 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.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### *What are public hearings?*

Public hearings are an open setting for the Royal Commission to expand their investigation on an issue and to gather further evidence about violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation of people with disability.

Public hearings will be held throughout the life of the Royal Commission and in different locations around the country.

### *Who gives evidence at public hearings?*

If the Royal Commission wants someone to appear as a witness, they will contact people in advance and request they appear to give evidence.

People may be from government departments, service providers, advocates, families members or people with disability.

### *Can anyone attend a public hearing?*

If you are interested in attending, you will need to register online at [www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au](http://www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au).

Public hearings are streamed so you can watch them online, and transcripts are produced after each day.

## **SUBMISSIONS**

### *What are submissions?*

Submissions are a way a person can share their experience and opinion on an issue.

People can share their experience with the Royal in writing, over the phone, in a video or audio recording.

For more information on services available visit [www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au](http://www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au) or contact the Royal Commission on 1800 517 199 or [DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto: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 you request, they are not, or if the Royal Commission considers the submission inappropriate to be made public.

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

Submissions may include redactions (some of the text being blacked out) if the Royal Commission decides to do so.

## **SUPPORT**

### *How are people being supported during the Royal Commission?*

The Royal Commission has made accessible 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.

People who engage with the Royal Commission can have access to counselling and support service including free legal and advocacy support.

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*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 at <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/> for Easy Read information about

- How to Share your story
- Public hearings
- Policy and research
- Counselling and support
- News and events

The website has information translated 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](mailto:drc@endeavour.com.au)
- Royal Commission at [DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)

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