Interim Report
An Easy Read guide

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

October 2020
How to use this guide

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (the Royal Commission) wrote this guide. When you see the words ‘we’, ‘us’ or ‘our’, it means the Royal Commission.

We wrote this guide in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

We have written some 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.

We have written 2 Easy Read documents about our Interim Report.

This document is an Easy Read guide to the Interim Report.
You can find the Interim Report on our website.


You can ask for help to read this guide. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

We have also written an Easy Read summary of the Interim Report. It is called ‘What have we heard so far?’

A summary only includes the most important ideas.

You can find it on our website.

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What is this guide about?

This guide is about the Royal Commission’s Interim Report.

**Interim** means we are part of the way through our work.

The report is about:

- the Royal Commission
- our work.

This guide is about:

- the different parts of the report
- what is in each part.
What is the Royal Commission for?

We need the Royal Commission because we know that people with disability experience:

- **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.
First Nations people are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The terms of reference is a list of the things a Royal Commission must do.

Our terms of reference say we must:

- find out more about the lives of First Nations people with disability
- talk with First Nations people with disability
- include First Nations people with disability in our work.
We will make sure the voices of First Nations people are heard so we can understand:

- their experiences
- the barriers they face
- the issues that affect them.

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

- need to do
- want to do.
CALD people with disability

People who are **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD):**

- come from different **cultures** and backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.

Your culture is:

- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.

Our terms of reference say we must:

- find out more about the lives of CALD people with disability
- talk with CALD people with disability
- include CALD people with disability in our work.
We will make sure the voices of CALD people with disability are heard so we can understand:

- their experiences
- the barriers they face
- the issues that affect them.
What is in the Interim Report?

The Interim Report has 4 parts.

- Part A is about the Royal Commission.

- Part B is about how we do our work.

- Part C is about the work we have done so far.
Part D is about what we:

- have heard
- want to find out more about
- will do next.

Each part has chapters.
Each chapter talks about 1 topic.

On the following pages we talk about what is in each:
- part
- chapter.
Part A – About the Royal Commission

Part A has chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Chapter 1 talks about why we need the Royal Commission.

Chapter 2 talks about our:

- Chair – the person who leads the Royal Commission

- Commissioners – the senior people who work on the Royal Commission.
Chapter 3 talks about our terms of reference.

Chapter 4 talks about:

- the law that applies to our work
- what powers the law gives the Royal Commission.

Chapter 5 talks about:

- who works for the Royal Commission
- how we work
- what matters to us.
Part B – How we do our work

Part B has chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Chapter 6 talks about how we support people who take part in the Royal Commission.

Chapter 7 talks about our hearings.

A hearing is a formal, public meeting.

When something is formal, there are strict rules about how it should be done.
When something is public:

- anyone can watch
- we share the records of what happened so anyone can read them.

Chapter 8 talks about submissions.

A submission is a document or recording that explains:

- your experience
- an idea you have.

Chapter 9 talks about how we:

- connect with people with disability
- include people with disability in our work.
Chapter 10 talks about private sessions.

A private session is a private meeting between:

- someone with a story to tell
- a Commissioner.

Chapter 11 talks about our research.

Research is when we read about what experts have learned.

We try to understand what people:

- know
- think.
Our research is about why people with disability experience:

- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

Chapter 11 also talks about our policy work.

Our policy work looks at systems and how they can lead to people with disability experiencing:

- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

Systems are things that:

- connect with each other
- work together.
Our policy work looks at how we can change systems to make sure people with disability can be safe.

The services and systems people with disability need include:

- disability supports and services
- health care services
- transport systems
- housing services
- the justice system
- complaint systems.

The justice system includes:

- police
- courts
- the law
- prisons.

When you make a complaint, you tell someone that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn’t working well.
Part C – What we have done so far

Part C has chapters 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Chapters 12, 13 and 14 talk about what happened at our first 3 public hearings.

Chapter 15 talks about:

- collecting good information
- why we need good information.
Part D – What we will do next

Part D has chapters 16, 17, 18 and 19.

Chapter 16 talks about different theories we use in our work.

A theory is an idea that explains why something works the way it does.

Chapter 17 talks about what we have heard so far.

Chapter 18 talks about First Nations people with disability.
What will we do next?

Chapter 19 talks about what we will do next.

The Royal Commission still has a lot of work to do.

We will listen to more stories from:

- people with disability
- families
- advocates
- organisations
- supporters and carers.
We will hold:

- public meetings
- private meetings
- community engagements.

A community engagement is where people get together to talk about their experiences or ideas.

We will hold community engagements in different places around Australia.
We will use what we learn to develop ideas for how to:

- make life better for people with disability

- keep people with disability safe from:
  - violence
  - abuse
  - neglect
  - exploitation.

We can’t change things on our own.
We must work together with:

- people with disability
- governments
- businesses
- support and advocacy organisations
- disability services
- the community.
Word list

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

**Abuse**

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.

**Barrier**

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

- need to do
- want to do.

**Community engagement**

A community engagement is where people get together to talk about their experiences or ideas.

**Complaint**

When you make a complaint, you tell someone that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn’t working well.
Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

People who are culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD):

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

Culture

Your culture is:

- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.

Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.

First Nations people

First Nations people are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Formal

When something is formal, there are strict rules about how it should be done.
Hearing

A hearing is a formal, public meeting.

Interim

Interim means we are part of the way through our work.

Justice system

The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

Neglect

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

Policy work

Our policy work looks at systems and how they can lead to people with disability experiencing:

- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.
Private session
A private session is a private meeting between:

- someone with a story to tell
- a Commissioner.

Public
When something is public:

- anyone can watch
- we share the records of what happened so anyone can read them.

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.

Systems
Systems are things that:

- connect with each other
- work together.
Terms of reference
The terms of reference is a list of the things a Royal Commission must look at.

Theory
A theory is an idea that explains why something works the way it does.

Violence
Violence is when someone hurts you physically.
Contact us

You can email us at DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

If you have a question, you can call us on 1800 517 199.

We are available on Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

We are not available on public holidays.

You can also call the National Relay Service on 133 677.
You can write to us at:
GPO Box 1422
Brisbane
QLD 4001

You can follow us on:

Facebook
www.facebook.com/disability.royalcommission.gov.au

Twitter
@DRC_AU

You can also subscribe to our newsletter
Connect by sending an email to:
DRCmailinglist@royalcommission.gov.au

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