



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

The Hon Ronald Sackville AO QC  
Chair

3 April 2020

Ms Catalina Devandas-Aguilar  
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities  
United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures  
Palais De Nations  
1211 Geneva 10  
SWITZERLAND

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Devandas-Aguilar,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2020 in relation to the Royal Commission's Statement of Concern. As you noted in your letter, it is a critical time for people with disability and we felt it was our responsibility to call on all Australian governments to develop specific strategies for people with disability as part of its response to COVID-19.

Your recommendations were of considerable assistance in developing our Statement of Concern. We would welcome your agreement to publish your letter on our website as we believe its publication will assist by supporting our Statement of Concern.

Thank you also for your offer to share information and good practice on how discussions about the rights of persons with disability are evolving at the international level. As you may be aware, the Royal Commission's terms of reference recognise that Australia has international obligations to protect the human rights of people with disability, including to fulfil, respect and promote the rights recognised by the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD). For the Royal Commission this means our starting point is the CRPD and that our work must have a rights-based focus. We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss these issues with you or your office.

I have asked Commissioner Alastair McEwin AM [REDACTED] and Emeritus Professor Ron McCallum AO [REDACTED] to be the Royal Commission's primary points of contact with your office. They will be in contact shortly to arrange a time to speak with you. I understand that you know both Commissioner McEwin and Professor McCallum.

Thank you again for contacting me. I look forward to the Royal Commission having a fruitful dialogue with you and your office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sackville', written in a cursive style.

**Ronald Sackville AO QC**  
Chair