How to use this report

The Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH):
- did some research
- wrote a report for the Disability Royal Commission (the Royal Commission).

The report is called *Nature and extent of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against people with disability in Australia*.

You can find that report on our website.

This Easy Read report is a summary of that report.
A summary only includes the most important ideas.

The Royal Commission wrote this report.

When you see the word ‘we’, it means the Royal Commission.

We wrote this report 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 words mean.
There is a list of these words on page 17.

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

In this report, we talk about things that might upset some people.

If you get upset and need support, we have support services you can contact.

Their contact details are on page 20.
What is this report about?

This report is about our research.

Our research looks at **data** about people with disability.

When we talk about data, we mean:

- **facts**
- **information.**
We wanted to know what data there is about how people with disability in Australia experience:

- **violence**
  Violence is when someone hurts you physically.

- **abuse**
  Abuse is when someone treats you badly.

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

- **exploitation.**
  Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.

We are also asking:

- What other data do we need?

- How can we get the data we need?
What did we learn from our research?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) did a survey about personal safety in 2016.

The ABS is part of the Australian Government.

The ABS collects data about Australia and its people.

This survey collected data about how people in Australia experience violence.

From this survey, we learned that people with disability experience violence more often than people without disability.
Many people with disability experienced violence.

People with disability experience violence in different ways to people without disability.

This includes:

- women and girls with disability
- young people with disability.

Women with disability experience more sexual violence than women without disability.

Sexual violence is when someone:

- makes you do sexual things you don’t want to do
- does something sexual to you that you don’t want them to do.
Women with disability experience more **domestic and family violence.**

Domestic and family violence is when you are hurt by someone close to you, such as:

- your boyfriend or girlfriend
- your husband or wife
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
- someone who lives with you.
People with **cognitive disability** are more likely to experience violence than other people with disability.

A cognitive disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.
What is missing from the data we have?

There are gaps in the data that we have now in Australia.

A gap is an area where something is missing.

We do not have any data that is only about how people with disability in Australia experience:

- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation

The word ‘disability’ can have different meanings.
The word ‘violence’ can have different meanings too.

People do research and collect data in different ways.

This means that different people get different data when they do their research.

We do have data about how safe people are.

This has helped us get information about:

- disability
- violence.
There is more data that we have not looked at yet.

This data is about the health and safety of Australian people.

Looking at this data might help us understand more about the experiences of people with disability.

There is other data we have not been allowed to look at.
This data is private to protect the people the data is about.

If we could look at this data, it might help us understand more about the experiences of people with disability.
How can we get the data we need?

We must find ways to collect data about how people with disability experience:

- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

We also want to know if this data is in other research about people with disability.

We want people to agree on 1 meaning for the word ‘disability’.

Then everyone who collects data about disability can use this meaning.
We want to make sure people with disability are included in the data people collect.

This will make all research about disability in Australia:

- better
- clearer.

And it will be more helpful for making things better.
Word list

This list explains what the bold words in this report mean.

Abuse
Abuse is when someone treats you badly.

Cognitive disability
A cognitive disability affects how well you can:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.

Data
When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.
Domestic and family violence

Domestic and family violence is when you are hurt by someone close to you, such as:

- your boyfriend or girlfriend
- your husband or wife
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
- someone who lives with you.

Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.

Gap

A gap is an area where something is missing.

Neglect

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

Sexual violence is when someone:

- makes you do sexual things you don’t want to do
- does something sexual to you that you don’t want them to do.

Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.

Violence

Violence is when someone is hurts you physically.
Support for you

Blue Knot Foundation offers free counselling support to anyone who needs it.

Counselling support is when you:

- talk to someone about how you think and feel
- talk about ways to help you feel better.

You can contact Blue Knot Foundation by phone. 1800 421 468

They are open every day.

You can send Blue Knot Foundation an email

helpline@blueknot.org.au
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

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