



**Government of
South Australia**

Our response to the Disability Royal Commission

Recommendations about education

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Government of South Australia wrote this document.

When you read the word 'we', it means the Government of South Australia.



This document is part of our response to the Disability Royal Commission.

It is about part **7** of their final report.



We wrote this information in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



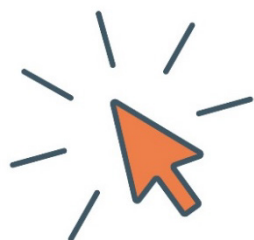
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **32**.



This Easy Read plan is a summary of our response to the Disability Royal Commission.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

www.dhs.sa.gov.au/disability-royal-commission



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.



We recognise Aboriginal peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – South Australia.



They were the first people to live on and use the:

- land
- waters.



We also recognise First Nations peoples who:

- live in South Australia now
- visit South Australia.

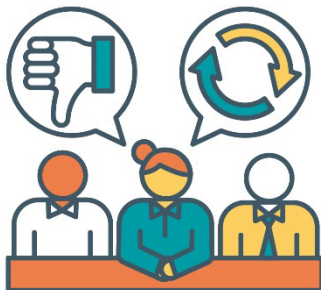
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About the Disability Royal Commission



The Australian Government created a **royal commission** to find out how to make our community safer for people with disability.



A royal commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.

It helps us work out what:

- has gone wrong
- we need to improve.

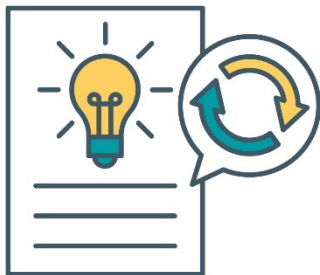


We call it the Disability Royal Commission.



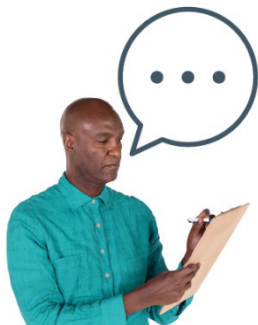
The Disability Royal Commission ran from **2019** to **2023**.

About the recommendations



The Disability Royal Commission shared ideas about what governments and services should change.

We call these ideas **recommendations**.



This document explains our response to recommendations about education.



The Disability Royal Commission says education should be more **inclusive**.

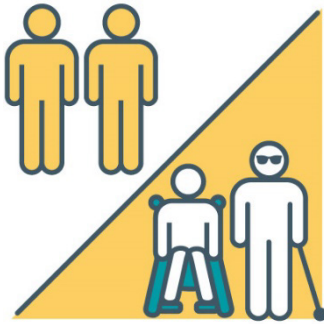


When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



This document also explains our response to recommendations about **segregated** education.



When something is segregated, it keeps people with disability separate from people without a disability.

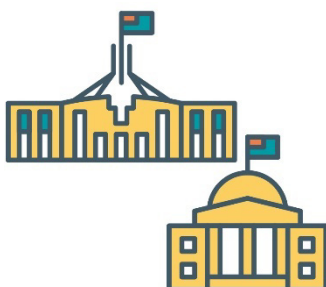
This includes segregated:



- schools



- classes.



We are working on this recommendation with:

- the Australian Government
- other state and territory governments.

Our response to the recommendations

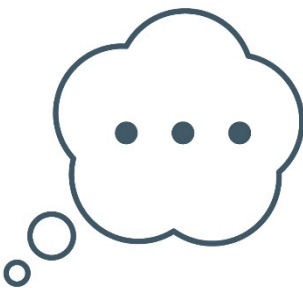
On the following pages we explain the recommendations we:



- agree with



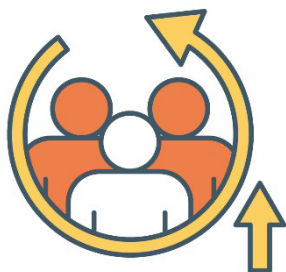
- mostly agree with



- need to think more about.

Recommendations about inclusive education

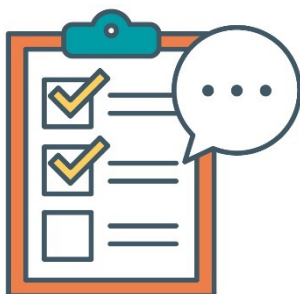
A plan to make education more inclusive



The Disability Royal Commission shared recommendations to make education more inclusive.



One recommendation says to create a plan about how to make education more inclusive.

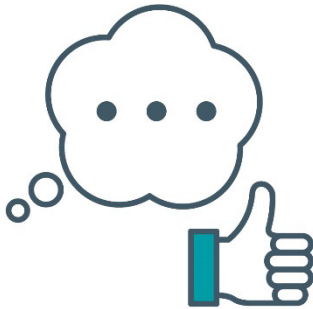


The plan should:

- have goals for inclusive education
- explain how governments will achieve these goals.

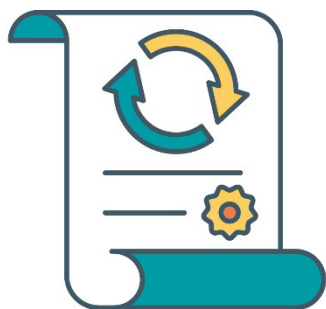


One recommendation says governments should make sure schools are following the rules to be inclusive.



We mostly agree with the goals of these recommendations.

Laws about choosing a school



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to change the laws about choosing schools.



The recommendation says the law should make sure students with disability can choose to go to a **mainstream school** if they want to.



Mainstream schools are schools where anybody can go and learn.

This includes:

- primary schools
- high schools.



The recommendation also says we should share **accessible** information.

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



For example, accessible information about:

- what schools must do
- the **rights** of students with disability.



Rights are rules about how everyone must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



We mostly agree with the goals in these recommendations.

Connect students from different schools



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about connecting students from different types of schools.

The recommendation says to:



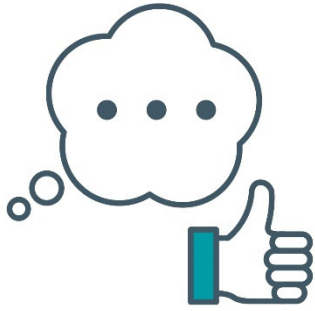
- move segregated schools so they are closer to mainstream schools



- create a stronger connection between segregated schools and mainstream schools.



This includes supporting students from different schools to do activities together.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.



In South Australia, many segregated schools:

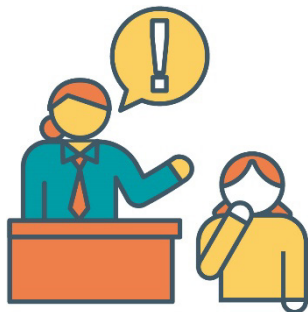
- are already close to mainstream schools
- have a strong connection with other schools.



We will keep working to connect students from different schools.

Recommendations about protecting students with disability

How schools manage behaviour



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about how schools manage the behaviour of students with disability.



The recommendation says schools should only make students with disability stay away from school if they are putting people at risk.

If a school decides a student with disability has to stay away:



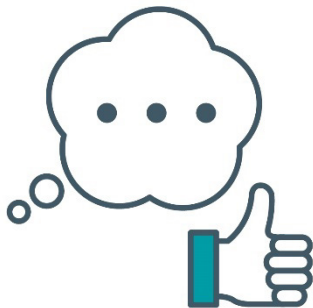
- the student should be able to ask the school to check their decision



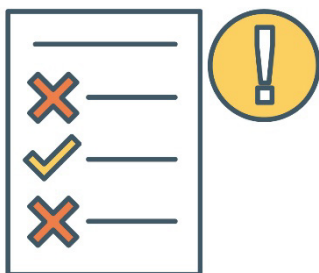
- teachers should give the student schoolwork they can do at home that meets their needs



- teachers should support students to come back to school.



We mostly agree with the goals of this recommendation.



We have already started making stronger rules to support students with disability to stay at school.

Manage complaints about schools



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about managing **complaints** about schools.

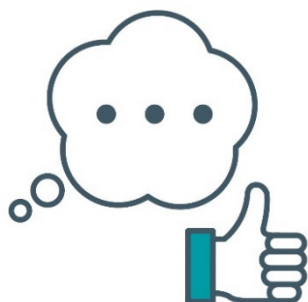


When you make a complaint, you tell someone that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.



The recommendation says governments should improve the way they manage complaints about schools.



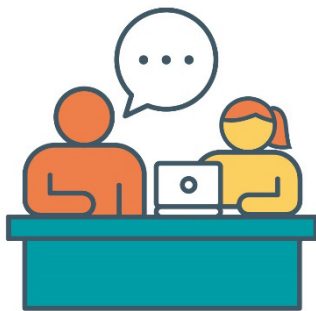
We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Recommendations about supporting students with disability

Support for students who finish school



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about support for students who finish school.

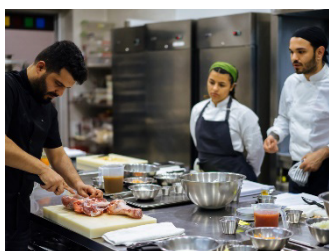


The recommendation says we should make a new service to support students with disability.

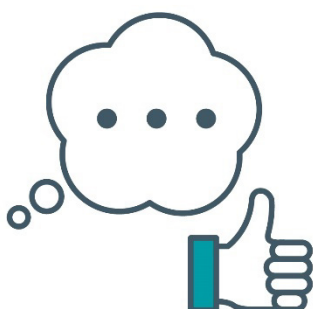
The new service should support students to move from school to:



- work

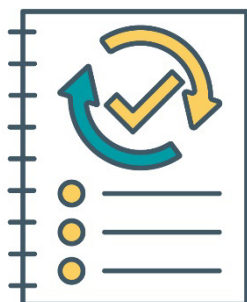


- further education, like university or TAFE.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Guidelines about reasonable adjustments



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to make guidelines about **reasonable adjustments** in schools.



Reasonable adjustments are changes to schools so people with disability can learn the same as people without a disability.



The recommendation says we should make guidelines that support schools to understand:

- what they need to do
- how they can use disability **funding**.

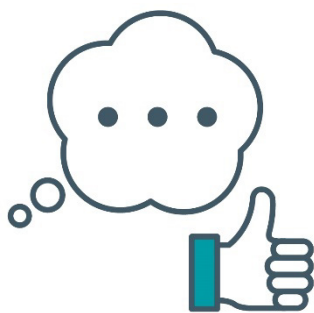


Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



The recommendation also says we should think about students with disability from different backgrounds.

For example, First Nations students with disability.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

How schools work with students and their families



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about how schools work with students with disability and their families.

The recommendation says we should make sure schools:



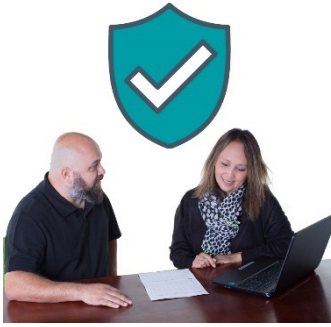
- share accessible information about rights with families



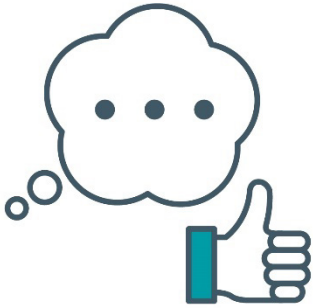
- include families in decisions that affect them.



This includes making sure families of students with disability can take part in the school community.



The recommendation also says we should make sure schools work with First Nations families in a way that is safe for them.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Recommendations about improving education

Advice about inclusive education



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation for governments to create teams that give advice about inclusive education.



The recommendation says these teams should also understand what First Nations students with disability need.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Build inclusive education skills in schools



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to help teachers and principals learn about inclusive education.

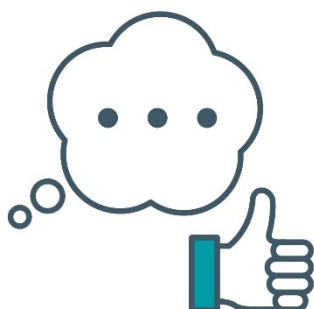


The recommendation says schools should hire inclusive education experts.

Experts could work with the schools in their area to give students with disability a better chance to take part in learning activities.



The recommendation also says schools should hire more people with disability.

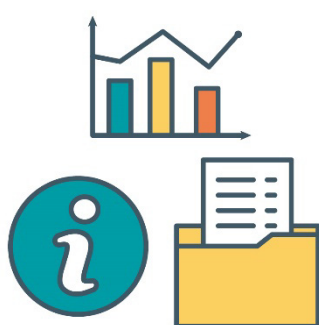


We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Collect and report data



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about collecting and reporting **data**.



When we talk about data, we mean:

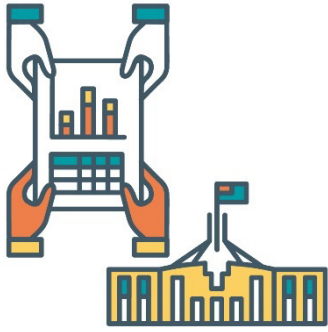
- facts
- information
- records.



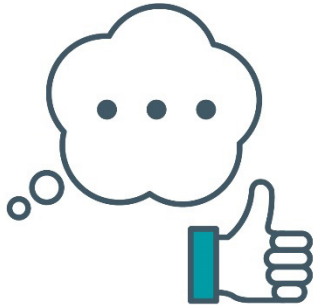
The recommendation says we should find a way to collect data that works for all schools.



We should also make sure all schools have to report the same type of data.



The recommendation also says we should share the data about students with disability to the Australian Government.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Disability funding in schools



The Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation about disability funding in schools.

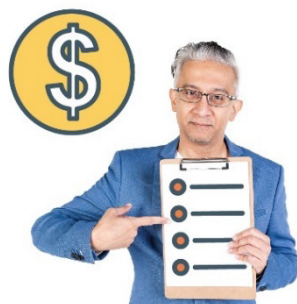
The recommendation says funding in schools should focus on:



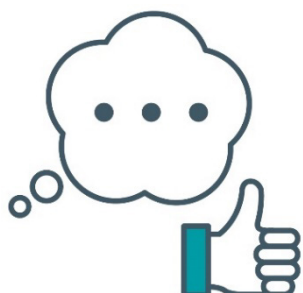
- what students with disability need



- making sure education is fair and equal for students with disability.



The recommendation also says we should be clearer about how we use disability funding.



We mostly agree with the goals in this recommendation.

Recommendations about the future of segregated education



The **Commissioners** are the people who were in charge of the Disability Royal Commission.



The Commissioners had different ideas about the future of segregated education.

End segregated education

3 Commissioners shared a recommendation to end segregated education.

The recommendation says:



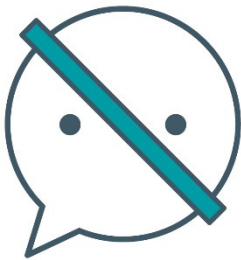
- there should be no new segregated education **from 2025**



- all segregated education should end **by 2051**.



This includes segregated classes in mainstream schools.



The ideas in this recommendation are different to what we are doing now.

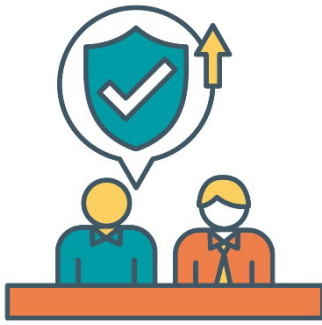


We want students with disability to be able to choose where they go to school.



This means we will keep working to make mainstream schools inclusive.

Improve segregated education



3 Commissioners from the Disability Royal Commission shared a recommendation to improve how segregated education works with mainstream schools.



The recommendation says governments should make sure all students in segregated education have contact with mainstream schools.

This includes making sure:



- segregated schools are near mainstream schools

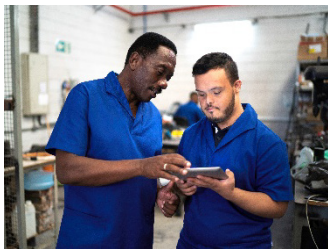


- students from different types of schools do activities together.

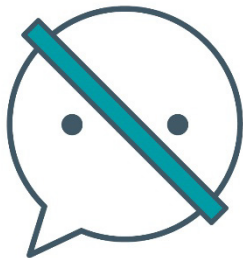
The recommendation also says segregated schools should support students with disability to:



- go into further education, like university or TAFE



- start working in businesses where anyone can work.



This recommendation includes ideas like our plans for inclusive education.



We will keep working to make education inclusive.

We will keep updating our plans about how to do this.

Word list

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



Accessible

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Commissioners

The Commissioners had different ideas about the future of segregated education.



Complaint

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

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.



Data

When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.



Funding

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.

Mainstream schools



Mainstream schools are schools where anybody can go and learn.

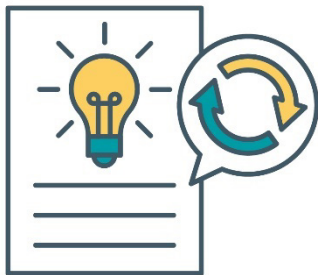
This includes:

- primary schools
- high schools.



Reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments are changes to schools so people with disability can learn the same as people without a disability.



Recommendations

The Disability Royal Commission shared ideas about what governments and services should change.

We call these ideas recommendations.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everyone must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.

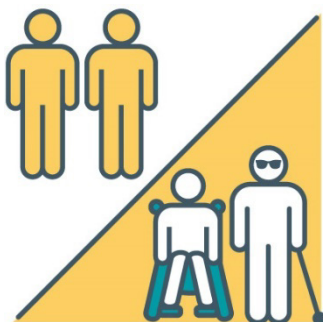


Royal commission

A royal commission is an official way of looking into a big problem.

It helps us work out what:

- has gone wrong
- we need to improve.



Segregated

When something is segregated, it keeps people with disability separate from people without a disability.

Contact us



You can call us.

(08) 8415 4383



You can send us an email.

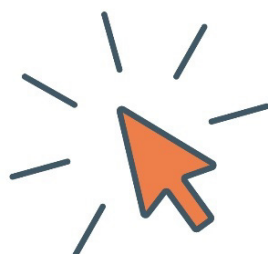
DHSDisabilityRoyalCommission@sa.gov.au



You can write to us.

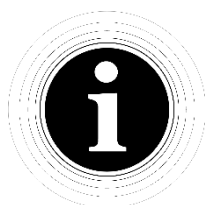
GPO Box 292

Adelaide SA 5001



You can visit our website.

www.dhs.sa.gov.au/disability-royal-commission



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