



**Government of
South Australia**

Our response to the Disability Royal Commission

What we heard from the community

Easy Read version

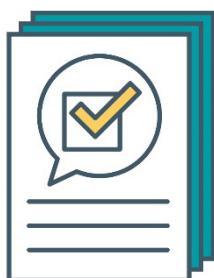


How to use this document



The Government of South Australia wrote this document.

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



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

It explains how we made our response.



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.



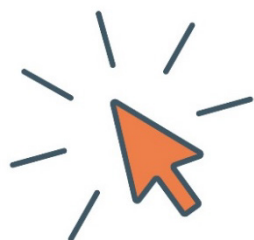
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 27.



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.

What's in this document

About the Disability Royal Commission 5

About the recommendations 6

How we wrote our response 7

What we heard from people with disability 10

What we heard from the disability sector 24

What we heard from the advisory groups 25

What we will do next 26

Word list 27

Contact us 33

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.

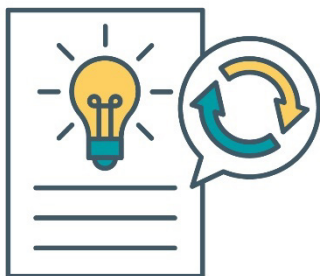


We call it the Disability Royal Commission.



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**.



The Disability Royal Commission shared **222** recommendations.



We have responded to **129** of these recommendations.



We explain how we wrote our response below.

How we wrote our response



We heard from different groups in the community to understand:

- what they think about the recommendations
- how to respond to the recommendations.



We heard from:

- people with disability
- their families and carers.

We also heard from people who work in the **disability sector**.



The disability sector includes:

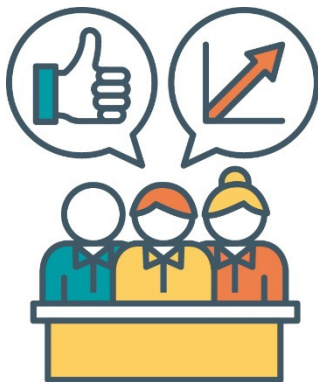
- service providers
- support workers
- organisations that speak up for people with disability.



We also heard from **2 advisory groups**.

They are:

- the Disability Minister's Advisory Council
- the DHS Disability Engagement Group.



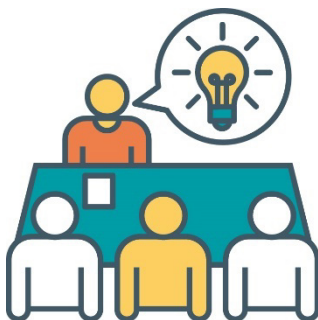
An advisory group is a group of people who work with us to share what is:

- working well
- needs to work better.

We asked these groups to share their ideas about the recommendations in:



- **workshops** – where people talk to each other about a topic



- **focus groups** – a group of people who meet to talk about their ideas and opinions.



We asked the groups to give **feedback** on the recommendations.

When you give feedback, you tell someone what they:

- are doing well
- can do better.



We used this feedback to help us respond to the recommendations.

What we heard from people with disability



People with disability shared their ideas on **6** important areas.

We explain what they said on the following pages.

Employment



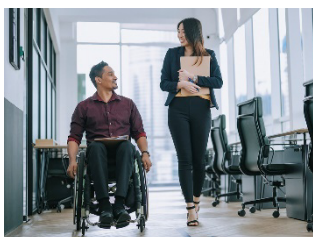
Employment means you:

- have a job
- go to work
- get paid.



People with disability told us about challenges they face with employment.

For example, some places where people work are not **accessible**.



When a place is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- move around.

People with disability also told us:



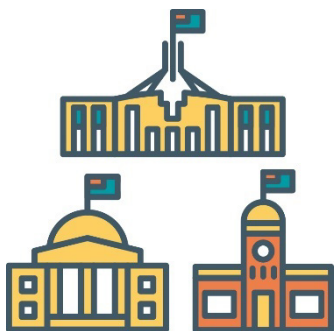
- some jobs don't pay them enough money



- they find it hard to get a job.



People with disability said they should have more job opportunities in different places.

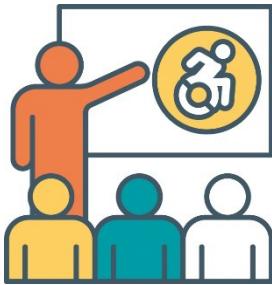


This includes working for governments.

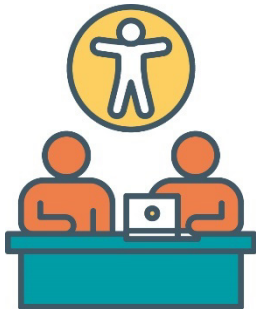


People with disability said an accessible place to work would be good for everyone.

Over the next year, people with disability said we should focus on:



- more disability training for people who hire other people to work for them



- making places where people work more accessible



- supporting people with disability to find a job.

Education



When you get an **education**, teachers support you to learn.

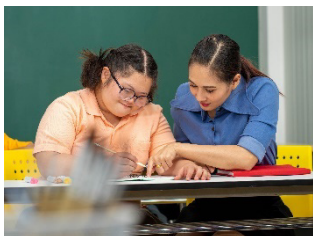


People with disability said they have the **right** to take part in education.



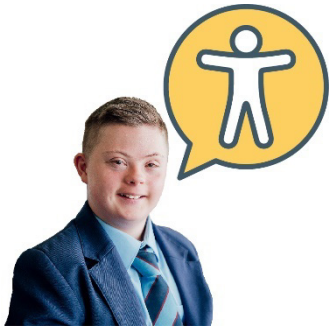
Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



People with disability said there should be more support:

- for students with disability
- when they move to schools with students without a disability.



People with disability talked about ways to make education more accessible.



This included disability training for teachers and staff.

Over the next year, people with disability said we should focus on:



- providing more support in schools to include students with disability



- improving what people think and feel about disability



- hiring more people with disability to work in education.

Health



People with disability said they are experts on their own:

- experiences
- health.



This includes deciding what they need and want.



People with disability said they have a better experience with healthcare when workers take the time to listen to them.



People with disability talked about how healthcare services need to be easier to find and use.

This includes the equipment they use in healthcare services.



For example, chairs to make toilets more accessible.



Over the next year, people with disability said we should focus on providing disability training to healthcare staff.

Housing



People with disability said they should have choice and control over:

- where they live
- who they live with.



People with disability agreed the laws about housing need to change to better protect them.



People with disability said they are worried about experiencing **homelessness**.



When someone is experiencing homelessness, they don't have a home.

They must find a place to sleep each night.

People with disability said **advocates** for housing should be more accessible.



An advocate is someone who can:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



Advocates for housing can support people with disability to make decisions about where they live.



People with disability said we should focus on providing more accessible housing options.

The justice system



The **justice system** includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law.

The justice system also includes **detention settings**.



Detention settings are places where people have to stay if they:

- have broken the law
- are waiting for a court to decide if they broke the law.

For example:



- prisons



- youth justice centres.



People with disability said support services in the justice system work well.

For example, the Disability Information and Legal Assistance Unit.

People with disability said staff who work in the justice system:



- can treat them differently because of their disability



- don't understand disability.

People with disability said:



- staff in detention settings need more disability training
- we should work with them to provide this training.



People with disability said more advocate services would help us improve some of the issues they face in the justice system.

People with disability said we should focus on:



- better understanding disability



- more training to better support people with disability.

Safety



People with disability said they want to be safe when they use support services.

People with disability said it can be hard to find support and information about:



- **violence** – when someone hurts you physically



- **abuse** – when someone treats you badly.



People with disability said there should be more accessible information and advice to keep safe from violence or abuse.



People with disability said there should be more support to speak up about their safety.



People with disability said support workers need better training to meet their needs.



People with disability said support workers should meet certain rules before they start working.

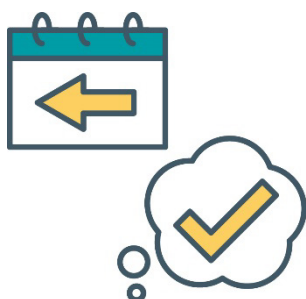
What we heard from the disability sector



The disability sector said the recommendations need to work with other changes to disability services in Australia.



The disability sector said we need a plan to make sure we can keep paying to improve disability services.



The disability sector said we should tell them about any changes we make:

- early
- in a way that is easy to understand.



The disability sector said we need to make sure the way we make changes to disability services works well.



The disability sector said we need to look into how disability services can focus more on people's rights.

What we heard from the advisory groups



The advisory groups said we should look into how disability services can:

- meet different needs
- think about the different parts of a person's life.

For example, a person's **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.

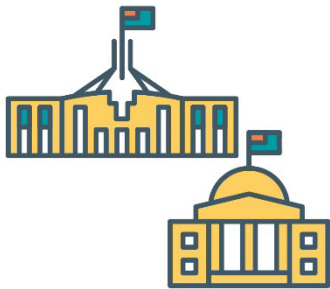


Or a person's **sexuality**.

Your sexuality is who you:

- love
- are attracted to.

What we will do next



We will share our responses to the recommendations with:

- the Australian Government
- other state and territory governments.

We will keep working to improve disability services by:



- listening to the disability community



- using ideas from the Disability Royal Commission's Final Report.



Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas and experiences with us.

Word list

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



Accessible

When a place is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- move around.



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Advisory group

An advisory group is a group of people who work with us to share what is:

- working well
- needs to work better.

Advocate



An advocate is someone who can:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.

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.

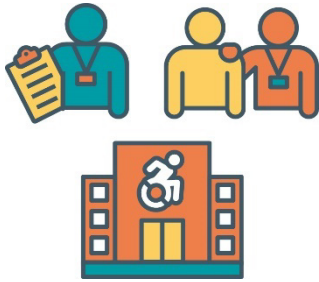
Detention settings



Detention settings are places where people have to stay if they:

- have broken the law
- are waiting for a court to decide if they broke the law.

Disability sector



The disability sector includes:

- service providers
- support workers
- organisations that speak up for people with disability.



Education

When you get an education, teachers support you to learn.

Employment



Employment means you:

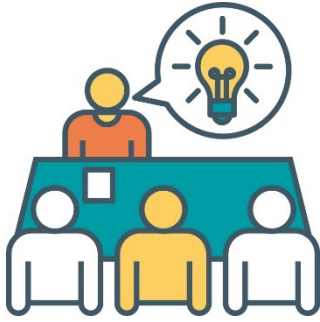
- have a job
- go to work
- get paid.



Feedback

When you give feedback, you tell someone what they:

- are doing well
- can do better.



Focus groups

A focus group is a group of people who meet to talk about their ideas and opinions.



Homelessness

When someone is experiencing homelessness, they don't have a home.

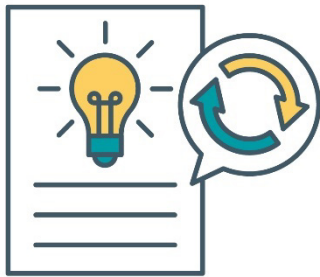
They must find a place to sleep each night.



Justice system

The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law.



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 people 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.





Sexuality

Your sexuality is who you:

- love
- are attracted to.



Violence

Violence is when someone hurts you physically.



Workshops

A workshop is where people talk to each other about a topic.

Contact us



You can call us.

(08) 8415 4383



You can send us an email.

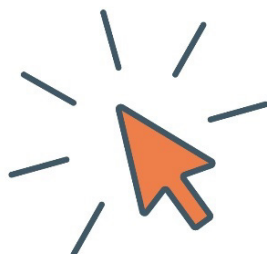
DHSDisabilityInclusion@dhs.sa.gov.au



You can write to us.

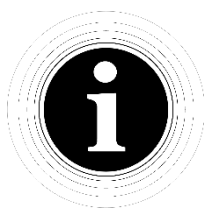
GPO Box 292

Adelaide SA 5001



You can visit our website.

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



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

www.informationaccessgroup.com.

Quote job number 5839-B.