



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

# Draft Accessibility Strategy

**Making sure that everyone can take part in the Royal Commission**

**Easy Read version**



## How to use this document



The Disability Royal Commission  
(the Commission) wrote this document.  
When you see the word 'we', it means  
the Commission.



We have written this information in an easy  
to read way. We use pictures to explain  
some ideas.



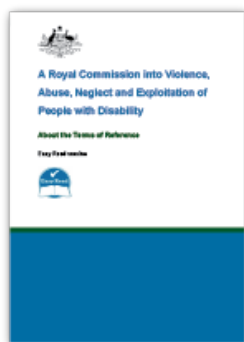
We have written some words in **bold**.  
We explain what these words mean.  
There is a list of these words on page 33.



This Easy Read document is a summary  
of another document.



You can find the other document on our website  
at [disability.royalcommission.gov.au](https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au)



You might also like to read our Fact Sheet about the Royal Commission.



The Fact Sheet explains:

- what a Royal Commission is



- why we are having a Royal Commission.



The Fact Sheet also explains the meaning of hard words we use a lot, such as:

- **violence**
- **abuse**
- **neglect**
- **exploitation.**



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

## What's in this document?

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## What is this document about?



This document is about our Draft Accessibility Strategy (the Strategy).



When something is **accessible**, everyone can use it.



This might be:

- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



The Strategy is a plan to make sure that people can take part in the Royal Commission if they want to.



It is just a draft at the moment.



This means that we can still make changes to it.



These changes will be based on the ideas that people share with us.



## Introduction

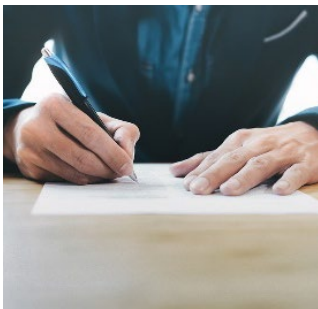


The Honourable Mr Ronald Sackville AO QC is leading the Commission.

He is called the Chair of the Commission.

The letters after his name mean:

- AO – Officer of the Order of Australia.
- QC – a Queen's Counsel, a very senior lawyer.



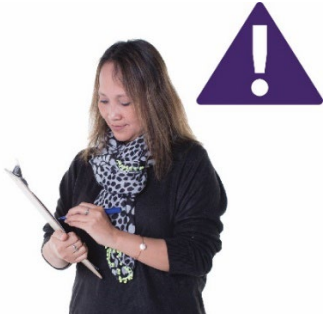
Commissioner Sackville wrote an introduction to the Strategy.



He said that in the past, Royal Commissions have created big changes in our community.



He said that everyone hopes this Commission can create big changes too.



This Commission will look into a lot of problems.



It is important that people with disability feel safe to share their ideas and experiences.



It will not be easy for some people to do this.



Some people have trouble communicating.



And others might need emotional support.





This Strategy talks about how we will make it easier for people to take part.



We will put people with disability first.

And we will make sure that everyone can have their say, including:



- First Nations Peoples



- people from all cultural backgrounds.



Mr Sackville said that he wants to know your ideas about this Strategy.

## The agreements and laws that we are following

### United Nations

#### Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The Strategy is based on some important agreements in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (UN Convention).

The UN Convention says that people with disability should:



- be treated with respect
- be treated fairly
- have the chance to take part in our community
- be accepted for who they are
- be treated equally
- be given access to services and buildings.



The UN Convention is followed by governments around the world.

The Strategy is also based on some important laws, including the:



- *Royal Commissions Act 1902.*  
This is an Australian law that explains how Royal Commissions work.



- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992.*  
This is an Australian law that explains how people with disability should be treated.



The Royal Commission will follow these agreements and laws.

# The rights of people with disability

United Nations

Convention  
on the  
Rights of  
Persons with  
Disabilities



People with disability have rights under the UN Convention.



Children with disability have rights too.

The Royal Commission will make sure that:



- we think about each person's needs



- our staff know and understand this Strategy and how to use it



- we think about how people access buildings



- we think about other ways people might need to communicate



- we provide information in ways that people can understand



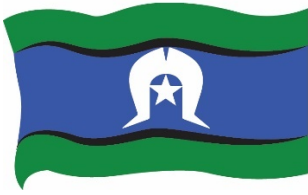
- we check back to make sure this Strategy is working well.

# First Nations Peoples with disability

First Nations Peoples include:



- Aboriginal peoples



- Torres Strait Islander peoples

Many First Nations Peoples face problems:



- in their communities



- because of disability



- getting support services.





We want to make sure that First Nations Peoples can take part in the Commission.



And we want to make sure that we respect their needs.



If we need to, we will change the way we work to make sure we can include First Nations Peoples.

## People from all cultural backgrounds



It's important that people from all cultural backgrounds can take part in the Commission.



In some cultures:

- the idea of disability is new
- people choose not tell others that they have a disability.



We want to make sure that people can talk to the Commission in their first language.



This may not be English.

At our events and offices, we will provide:



- interpreters, so that people can talk to us in their first language



- Auslan-English interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

# LGBTQI+



LGBTQI+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning and Intersex.



It includes people:

- from all genders
- with all types of sexuality.



We understand that some LGBTQI+ people with disability face problems in our community.



We want to make sure that everyone can take part in the Commission.



We welcome LGBTQI+ people with disability to share their ideas and experiences if they want to.



We will respect people's privacy when they do this.

# Trauma



We understand that we need to be careful about any **trauma** people have experienced.



**Trauma** is the pain and memories from bad experiences from the past.



We want to give people the support that they need when they share their ideas and experiences with us.



Some organisations will provide support services.



We can let you know when those services are available.



Please sign up to get our email newsletters to learn more about this support.

We explain how to do that on page 33.



## People with psychosocial disability



**Psychosocial disability** affects your mental health.



We want to make sure that people with psychosocial disability feel safe to take part in the Commission.



We will make sure that our staff understand psychosocial disability.

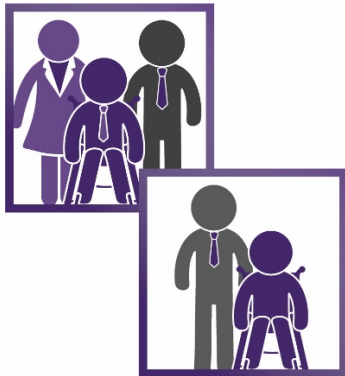


And we will make sure that we share information with organisations that support people with psychosocial disability.

## Working with us



We want to include people with disability in our team.



Some of the Commissioners and senior staff have:

- a disability
- experience with a disability.



If you have a disability, you are welcome to apply for a job with us.



There is more information about how to do this on our website.



When people join our team, we make sure they have training to understand how to work with people with disability.

## Accessible communication



We will do everything we can to make sure that our communications are accessible.



On all videos we create, we will use:

- **transcripts** – text from anything said verbally
- **captions** – text that is used to show what is being said straight away.

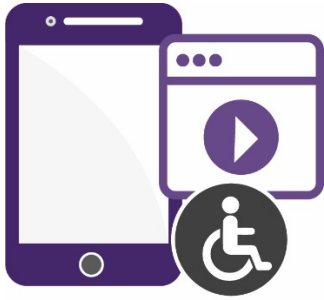
We will also:



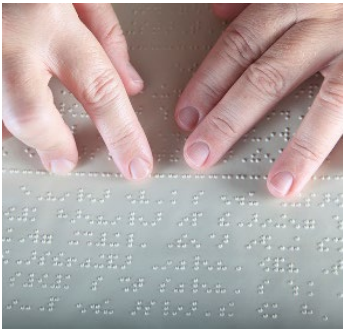
- follow the rules for making websites accessible



- provide different file types such as:
  - accessible PDFs
  - Word documents



- use high standards of accessibility in our phone and video systems



- provide Braille options for people who need it



- teach our staff about how to communicate with people with disability.

# Accessible ways to take part

## Choosing how to take part



We want people to take part in the Commission in the way that they choose to.



Some people may like to go to our public events.



Other people might want more privacy.



Some people will need more time to talk than others.



And some people might need to talk to us in more than 1 short session.



Some people may like to have a support person with them.



No matter what someone needs, we will make sure that people feel safe and respected if they choose to share their experiences with us.



## Making decisions



Some people need support to make decisions.



We want to make sure this is only ever done in a respectful way.



For some people, taking part in the Commission will be a big decision.



We want to give people the time that they need to make this decision.



We will make sure that there are staff to support you if you need it.

## Making sure you can speak out



Some people may find it hard to get to us, or not be able to get to us at all.



For example, they may live far away from our events or offices.



It's important that everyone can speak about their experiences if they want to.



We will help you find a way to speak out if you want to.



Sometimes, the Commissioners may travel to speak to some people.

## Helping you at our events or offices



We will provide support to people with disability who want to share their ideas or experiences with us.



You are welcome to bring along any technology that you need.



And we will allow people to bring their guide dogs to our offices and events.



If a **witness** needs to travel to talk to us, we will pay their travel costs.



A witness is a person who saw or knew that something happened.

## Our buildings and technology



We will make sure that the buildings we use for our offices and events are accessible.

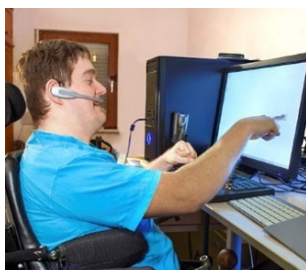


We will make sure that we use accessible technology when we talk to you.

This includes:



- our phones



- live video chatting



- our website



- social media.

## Making sure the Strategy is working well



We want to make sure this Strategy is working well.



You are welcome to share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Our contact details are on the next page.

## Contact us



To stay in touch with the work we are doing, please visit our website:

**[disability.royalcommission.gov.au/](http://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/)**



You can sign up for our email newsletter to receive updates.



You can call us on 1800 517 199.



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



Or you can send an email to:

**[DRcenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:DRcenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)**



## Word list



### **Abuse**

When someone treats you badly.



### **Captions**

Text that is used to show what is being said straight away.



### **LGBTQI+**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning and Intersex.



### **Psychosocial disability**

Psychosocial disability affects your mental health.



### **Transcripts**

Text from anything said verbally.



### **Trauma**

Pain and memories from bad experiences from the past.



## UN Convention

The UN Convention says that people with disability should:

- be treated with respect
- be treated fairly
- have the chance to take part in our community
- be accepted for who they are
- be treated equally
- are given access to services and buildings.



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



## Witness

A person who saw or knew that something happened.



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