

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

On 5 April 2019, the establishment of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability was announced. Recent inquiries and reports have shown that people with disability are more likely to experience violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation than people without disability. In Australia, royal commissions are the highest form of inquiry on matters of public importance. What we learn from the Royal Commission will help to inform Australian governments, institutions and the wider community on how to prevent, and better protect, people with disability.

What is the scope of the Royal Commission?

The Commissioners have been directed to inquire into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability. The Royal Commission's Terms of Reference (the scope of the inquiry) cover what should be done to:

- prevent, and better protect, people with disability from experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation,
 - achieve best practice in reporting and investigating of, and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and
 - promote a more inclusive society that supports the independence of people with disability and their right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- The inquiry will cover all forms of violence against, and abuse, neglect and exploitation of, people with disability, in all settings and contexts.

The Disability Royal Commission gathers information through research, public hearings, the personal experiences people tell us about and submissions, private sessions, and other forums.

The Commission will deliver a final report to the Australian Government by 29 April 2022. In this report, the Royal Commission will recommend how to improve laws, policies, structures and practices to ensure a more inclusive and just society.

Access Industries supports the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Access' values of Respect, Equality, Support and Integrity represents its approach to zero tolerance to the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. Access actively engages with employees with disability and the sector to ensure a person-centred and safe environment is provided to people with a disability.

As part of Access' duty of care and commitment to people with disabilities, we will keep you informed on the findings of The Royal Commission and provide appropriate support to people with disabilities throughout the process.

Access will be training key staff on Preventing and Responding to Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation to ensure our staff have the skills and knowledge to support employees with a disability who may be involved in The Royal Commission. Access Industries will inform employees on the Disability Royal Commission and provide significant updates and information as they arise.

There are many support services available for people involved in the Commission, please see Access' *'Support Services for The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability'*.

For more information and up to date information please visit:

<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/>