

Hi there, my name's Troy Hester and I'm here to talk about my role in supporting you and your family with the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of People with Disability.

At Family Advocacy our vision is for the valued recognition of people with disability living in a just and inclusive society. The Disability Royal Commission has been set up to look at what needs to be done to promote an inclusive society, and what more needs to be done to prevent and to protect people with a disability from experiencing violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

A Royal commission is about investigating what has gone wrong, and what regularly gets in the way of people with disability having the opportunity to enjoy an ordinary life. This Disability Royal Commission is a huge opportunity to influence positive and social change in this country. To do its job well this Royal Commission needs to understand what is happening for people with disability. It needs to hear what isn't working, and also what does work.

My role at Family Advocacy is to help you and your family to engage with the Disability Royal Commission. Your experience is not only relevant but it is also important for the Commission to hear. We have a real opportunity to influence this Commission and what it publishes in its recommendations.

So, a few facts about the Disability Royal Commission:

It covers the whole country and it has promised events in regional areas as well as capital cities.

It focuses on everyone with a disability including all ages, all genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, and it will look specifically at issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

It covers all settings and contexts. If there's been a problem in a school, hospital, community setting, group home, workplace, prison, transport system, age care facility, Centrelink, banks, mainstream services etcetera, etcetera it's all relevant to the Commission.

This commission covers violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and defines these in such a way that if a person with a disability has been mistreated, or treated unfairly then that experience is probably of relevance to the Commission.

People can share their experience in whatever way works for them. It can be via the phone, via an email, with photos, a video, artworks, and there are also opportunities to share face to face. And you can use any language including Auslan, and the Commission will find someone to translate it for them.

You can talk about your experiences in a school, with health services, with Centrelink, or with the NDIS. Or just about anything else. If you'd like more information you can look at the Disability Royal Commission's website, or call their hotline. You can also contact me with questions, or for more encouragement.

You have a story to share. If you know a person with disability who has been mistreated, or treated unfairly you can share this with the Commission. Or you may know something that works really well, and that the Commission should recommend to be used right across the country. Wherever you are with your thinking about your engagement with the Disability Royal Commission my role here is to assist you to get to the next step. Can I encourage you to use this opportunity to influence positive social change towards a just and inclusive society. Thanks for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.