

# Preparing a Submission to the Disability Royal Commission

Introduce yourself and/or the person you are making a submission on behalf of.

What experiences do you want to share with the Disability Royal Commission?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

→ 1. FIRST TOPIC

What happened?

## Introduction

Do you identify as a person with disability, or are making a submission on behalf someone else? Introduce the people in your submission and anything relevant to what you want to share. This could include type of disability, age, background, location, occupation, gender or anything relevant. Perhaps explain what ongoing impact these things have on your/ their life.

Your submission can be anonymous if you wish.

## What do you want to share?

It might help if you start by thinking about what you want to share by topics, i.e.

- Education
- Housing
- Employment
- Health
- NDIA
- Police/justice system

Once you have identified the topics you want to talk about, you can expand on these.

## What happened?

Now that you have identified what you want to talk about, you can start. (You may have many things to share. Just start somewhere)

First, describe what happened. (You don't need to prove the details)

Examples of questions can be found at the end of this document.

### **What was the impact?**

Now that you have explained your experience, discuss how this experience impacted you/the person with disability.

After what happened how did you feel?

Were there long-term results either good or bad?

Did the experience support the independence of the person with disability?

### **Reporting what happened**

Have you told anyone else about your experience? Who did you tell and did the person you reported your experience to do anything in response?

The Commission is particularly interested in hearing what happens to reports and how well investigations and governments and organisations respond to these reports.

### **Suggestions for improvement**

What are your thoughts on how your experience could have been prevented, improved or dealt with better?

### **What was the impact on you/the person with disability?**

### **Did you tell anyone about this/these experience(s)? What was the response?**

### **How could this experience have been better?**

**What changes need to be made to better support people with disability?**

**What you are hoping these changes will achieve?**

**If that's all you want to share at this time you can stop here.**

**Recommendations for change**

What suggestions would you like to share that you think would better support people with disability?

What should have happened in the situation you described?

What could have been done and wasn't?

How could the good in this experience be multiplied so others could benefit?

**Why change needs to be made?**

Why are you making these suggestions for change? What are you hoping this change would mean for people with disability in Australia?

You can describe different experiences in the same submission or you can share them separately.

You can make as many submissions as you like. You can choose to link them together by using your name of an alias or username. You can make one or all of them anonymously

### **What happened?**

First, describe the incident that happened.

Examples of questions can be found at the end of this document.

### **What was the impact?**

Now that you have explained your experience, discuss how this experience impacted you/the person with disability.

## **2. SECOND TOPIC**

### **What happened?**

### **What was the impact on you/the person with disability?**

**Did you tell anyone about this/these experience(s)? What was the response?**

**How could this experience have been better?**

**Reporting what happened**

Have you told anyone else about your experience? Who did you tell and did the person you reported your experience to do anything in response?

**Suggestions for improvement**

What are your thoughts on how your experience could have been prevented, improved or dealt with better?

### **Recommendations for change**

What suggestions would you like to share that you think would better support people with disability?

### **What changes need to be made to better support people with disability?**

### **Why change needs to be made**

Why are you making these suggestions for change? What are you hoping this change would mean for people with disability in Australia?

### **What you are hoping these changes will achieve?**

## Some questions that may help you with the *'What Happened'* section of your submission:

Some people find it helpful to use questions to come up with what they want to share with the Disability Royal Commission. Below are some general questions on the topics of education, employment, support staff, segregated settings and the NDIS. You may find it useful to answer all, some or none of the questions.

We can also tailor questions just for you. For individualised questions, please contact Family Advocacy on 9869 0866.

### Education:

- What sort of schools has the person with disability been enrolled in?
- Was the person with disability in a mainstream classroom?
- Did you feel that the person with disability was receiving a safe, quality and inclusive education?
- Was the person with disability ever excluded from school?
- Did the person with disability ever experience violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation at school?
- What was your perspective on the person with disability's experience?
  - o Did you feel their needs were being met?
  - o Did you feel that their personal health and wellbeing was looked after?
  - o Did they have good access to the full curriculum?
- Did you feel that you could communicate properly with the staff? And did you feel that the staff listened to you?

### Employment:

- Has the person with disability experienced any barriers in finding or keeping a job?
- Were reasonable adjustments made for the person with disability to engage in employment?
- Has the person with disability ever experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation in an employment setting?

- How much does the person with disability earn from their employer? Is it different from what someone without a disability would earn for the same work?
- Are the current employment programs and supports for people with disability effective?

### Segregated Settings (such as group homes or disability facilities):

- What kind of group homes/disability facilities has the person with disability lived in?
- What is your opinion of the quality of life for people with disability in these settings?
- Did the person with disability ever experience violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation in these settings?
- Was the person with disability's needs being met in this setting?
- Was their personal wellbeing being looked after?
- Was there good communication between the person with disability and their family members and the staff?
- Did you feel it was your own home? To have visitors, choose your times for meals, have hobbies and leisure time....

### Support staff:

- How many support workers has the person with disability had?
- Has the person with disability ever experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation?
- Was the person with disability's needs being met?
- Was their personal wellbeing being looked after?
- Do Support staff communicate well with the person with disability and their family ?
- Who chooses the staff that support? Does the person with disability have a choice in times and types of support?
- Is there good communication between the support people and the person they are supporting?

### NDIS:

- Has the person with disability had difficulty accessing NDIS?
- Has the person with disability's NDIS plan changed?
- Is the allocated NDIS funding enough to cover the required supports?



- Do you have planning sessions where you are able to be heard and can communicate what your goals and dreams are?
- Have you got a direct relationship with a Local Area Coordinator or a planner - would this be helpful?
- Do you have timely responses to any questions you have about your plan?
- Have you had to do an internal review on a decision? What was that experience like? How was it completed?

### Other Questions

- What do these experiences demonstrate about attitudes, understanding the rights of people?
- Was there respect? How was that shown?
- Was there a power imbalance? What is the evidence of this? How was that compensated for? Did it increase or decrease the risk of exploitation, neglect or abuse?
- What about these experiences promote independence or put up barriers to a being more independent?