



The Disability Royal Commission

Tell your story

Information from **Darwin Community Legal Service** on how to get involved in the Disability Royal Commission.

What is the Disability Royal Commission?

A Royal Commission is an official way of looking into a big issue in society. There is currently a Disability Royal Commission that is looking into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability in Australia. They want to hear about peoples experiences.

Telling your story

There are lots of ways that you can tell your story to the Royal Commission.

MAKE A SUBMISSION



A submission is the main way that organisations and individuals can tell their story. Anyone can make a submission to the Commission. A submission can be made in any way you feel comfortable:

- in writing, using a form on the Royal Commission website or by emailing your story to DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au
- by calling the Royal Commission on 1800 517 199
- or by making an audio or video recording

You can tell the Royal Commission if you want your submission to be public (shared) or if you want to keep it private.

GO TO A COMMUNITY FORUM

The Royal Commission will hold community forums where you can go and find out what is happening. The forums will be held at different locations across Australia. These will be listed on the Royal Commission website.

If you would like to go to a forum you need to go to the Royal Commission website and register to attend. When you register, you should say if you want to talk at the forum.

If you need help to register, you can contact us.



The Royal Commission may ask some people to give evidence (tell their story) at hearings. People can also ask to give evidence at hearings.

- To apply to give evidence, you should go to the Royal Commission website, or you can contact us for help
- People can go and watch Royal Commission hearings
- Some hearings will be in private so people can tell their story without anyone else present
- The Commission will hold a number of hearings over the next two years. Details about the hearings will be on the Royal Commission website. You can also contact us for information about hearings.



Getting Support

There are free services that can help and support you to tell your story.

Advocacy and legal help

Darwin Community Legal Service has disability advocates who can support you to tell your story and give you information about the Royal Commission.

We also have lawyers who can tell you about your rights and help you tell your story. You can contact us on 08 8982 1111 if you would like our help.

Legal help is also available through the Disability Royal Commission Legal Service by calling 1800 771 800.

Counselling

Relationships Australia offers free counselling to people with disability, their carers, family and anyone affected by the Royal Commission.

There is also a free National Counselling and Referral Service which can help you to make choices about telling your story. It can also give you information and listen to you if you want to talk about how you are feeling. Their number is 1800 421 468.

More Information

The Disability Royal Commission website is <http://disability.royalcommission.gov.au>
Our website is www.dcls.org.au/ and you can call us on 8982 1111

