

ROYAL COMMISSION GUIDEBOOK

PURPOSE This guide about the Disability Royal Commission is to help people with disability from migrant and refugee backgrounds tell their story. The Disability Royal Commission is seeking submissions from carers and family members of people with disability, as well as those working in the sector as advocates, support workers and community members.

This guide contains five fact sheets:

1. What is the Disability Royal Commission?
2. What does the Disability Royal Commission do?
3. NEDA's Statement on the Disability Royal Commission
4. How to make a submission
5. What is violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation?

USING THE GUIDE

This guidebook will help people with disability from migrant and refugee backgrounds to tell their story. These fact sheets will be online on the NEDA website in different languages. This guidebook has been written in simple English to help people to make a submission.

ABOUT NEDA

The National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) is a national Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) that promotes, protects, and advances the human rights of our members: people with disability from migrant and refugee backgrounds. We are governed by majority CALD people with disability. We are a founding member of DPO Australia, an alliance of four national cross-disability DPOs that have been funded by the Australian Government to represent the views of people with disability and provide advice to Government/s and other stakeholders.



A project funded by the Department of Social Services

Copyright © NEDA 2020

PH: +612 62626867
POST: PO Box 971,
Civic Square, ACT,
Australia 2608

Web: www.neda.org.au
Email: ppo@neda.org.au

WHAT IS THE DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION?

In Australia, royal commissions are the highest form of investigation on matters of public importance. Recent inquiries and reports have shown that people with disability are more likely to experience violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation than people without disability. 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 from experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in the future.

The Disability Royal Commission will look at how 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
- 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 different locations and situations.

The Disability Royal Commission is independent of government. This means that people with disabilities and their families, friends and supporters, and industry can inform the Royal Commission about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

NEDA strongly encourages people with disability from migrant and refugee backgrounds to tell your stories of being treated unfairly, as can family members and advocates.

The Disability Royal Commission wants to know about people's experiences of harm and unfair treatment:

- at schools, in the justice system or immigration detention
- in a group house or at a workplace
- at you own home



The Disability Royal Commission want to hear what people did to make things right for you, and what you think will improve the lives of people with disabilities.

WHAT DOES THE DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION DO?


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

Submissions: when you can tell your story privately by answering a set of questions by online form, on the telephone, in writing or video/audio recording. A separate fact sheet about submissions is available.


Public Hearings: when individuals have an opportunity to tell their story and have it recognised legally, and organisations are asked to provide their views on an issue of importance.


The work of the Royal Commission will finish when they provide a final report to the Government. The report will say what they have learnt from people with disability and the community and make recommendations for improvements to society and care systems.

Submissions from advocates, support workers, family, and friends can be sent:

 **In writing** via our online form [LINK/](#)

 **By emailing** [LINK/](#)

 **By phoning** 1800 517 199

 **By recording** your experiences as an audio or video submission and sending it to the Disability Royal Commission GPO Box 1422, Brisbane QLD 4001.

For all information on the Disability Royal Commission in other languages, visit www.neda.org.au

NEDA'S STATEMENT ON THE DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION

The best way for the Disability Royal Commission to understand the issues faced by people with disability from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and their families, is to hear from people themselves.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to tell your story. Let's build a better future

NEDA is a national Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) that promotes, protects, and advances the human rights of people with disability from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

NEDA knows that people with disability from migrant or refugee backgrounds are experts in their own lives. We are the best people to inform good practice and help develop better policies, services and systems that are inclusive, culturally appropriate, and respond to the diverse needs of all people with disability.

We want a society that respects our human rights and dignity no matter who we are, what we do, where we come from, what we believe in, and/or the languages we speak.

NEDA encourages you to make submissions to the Disability Royal Commission, in your own language, if you feel that is best for you. We encourage you to tell the commissioners about your unfair experiences.

We also encourage you to share what you think needs to change or happen to ensure you can live your life as you wish, on an equal basis to others. If you feel that you have been treated unfairly because of who you are, or in relation to your housing, health, employment, education, transport, or disability support needs, then share your story with the Disability Royal Commission.


You can share your experiences in relation to all aspects of your life. This includes but is not limited to:

- > your home and family
- > your disability service provider, or disability institution
- > your school, TAFE or university, or education provider

- > local, state or national governments and their programs or services
- > your doctor, your hospital or other health services
- > being out and about, for example on public transport, in restaurants or shopping centres and in parks.

The Disability Royal Commission wants to hear your story.

If you require help to tell your story, get in touch with NEDA and we will link you with someone in your local area who can provide support.

 02 6262 6867

 ppo@neda.org.au

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

The Disability Royal Commission is an investigation into ways we can prevent people with disability experiencing harm and being treated unfairly. They also want to know what you believe will make things better for us.

The Disability Royal Commission want to hear of your experiences as a person with disability in relation to:

VIOLENCE – when someone causes you harm and hurts you.

NEGLECT – when someone stops looking after you.

ABUSE – when someone puts you down or takes unwanted advantage of you.

EXPLOITATION – when someone uses you without pay in a workplace or you are not valued as a person.

The commission are looking for submissions from **advocates, support workers, family, and friends.**

The Disability Royal Commission will pay for interpreters or translators.



You don't have to use your name.

There are different ways you can make a submission:

In writing via an online form at <https://shareyourstorysubmission.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/> or posting a letter to GPO Box 1422, Brisbane QLD 4001

By emailing DRCEnquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

By phoning 1800 517 199 (9am-6pm AEDT Monday to Friday excluding national public holidays)

By recording your experiences and sending the audio or video submission.

Upload your file(s) by clicking the "Attach Files" button within the submission form. A maximum of 10 files of up to 4GB in total can be uploaded. If the audio or video files exceed 4GB, email or place the recording on a USB stick and send it to us – maximum 20GB per file. Alternatively, you could put the recording on youtube and send us a link.

If you would like assistance uploading your files, please contact the Royal Commission on 1800 517 199 or emailing DRCEnquiries@royalcommission.gov.au.

For all information on the Disability Royal Commission in other languages please visit www.neda.org.au.



You can speak or write in your own language.

WHAT IS VIOLENCE, ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION?

The Royal Commission wants to hear from people with disability who have experienced violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We need the Disability Royal Commission because we know that people with disability from migrant and refugee backgrounds sometimes experience:

VIOLENCE

When someone hurts you physically. For example, if someone pushes you, grabs you, or hits you.

ABUSE

When someone is treating you badly. For example, if someone calls you names, yells or threatens you and makes you feel bad about yourself, or touches your body in a way you do not want to be touched.


NEGLECT

When someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you. For example, if you are denied food, clothes or medication; if you are not allowed to see your friends or family; if you are left alone or don't have help to shower or go to the toilet.


EXPLOITATION


When someone takes advantage of you. For example, when someone takes your money or Centrelink payments from you without your consent or knowing, or when someone uses you for their advantage.

Submissions from advocates, support workers, family, and friends can be sent:

 **In writing** via our online form [LINK/](#)

 **By emailing** [LINK/](#)

 **By phoning** 1800 517 199

 **By recording** your experiences and sending us the audio or video submission to GPO Box 1422, Brisbane QLD 4001.

For all information on the Disability Royal Commission in other languages, visit www.neda.org.au