

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

## Workbook for preparing a submission in support of your child, May 2022.

Developed by CYDA using public materials from the Royal Commission

### BACKGROUND

The Royal Commission has been asked to look at violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in “all settings and contexts”, including schools, disability supports and social/ recreational settings. The Commission held its first public hearing in Townsville from Monday 4 November to Thursday 7 November 2019, with hearings scheduled through December 2022.

The Commission is accepting submissions until the **31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022**.

The commission is interested in submissions that address any domain of life, including:

- Education
- Health
- Disability Supports (including the NDIS)
- Identity
- Employment
- Social Engagement and Recreational Activities

While this document provides some questions that may be helpful when telling your story, submissions can be provided in a range of formats. This includes:

Artworks, audio clips, video clips, essays, letters, collections of existing documentation etc.

## YOUR SUBMISSION

The Royal Commission has published a short booklet with information about sharing your experiences. The booklet is available here:

<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/share-your-story>.

This workbook is based on information provided by the Royal Commission, with space to write your own responses.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

### How you can share your story

- You can provide as many submissions as you would like
- Submissions can be made anonymously
- You can provide a submission in writing, through the website, or in a video or audio recording
- You can ask for a private session with a Commissioner
- You can provide a submission in your first language, including Auslan and Indigenous languages. The Royal Commission will provide interpreters and translators.

### What to include

- You only have to provide the information you feel comfortable sharing
- You can include other documents and information with your submission, including written statements you have made to another government agency, a complaints body, or the police.

### Available support

You can get **free legal advice** to help you understand your options in sharing your experience with the Royal Commission. Please call 1800 771 800 (9:15am-5:15pm AEDT Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays).

Blue Knot Foundation offers **free, specialist counselling support** and a referral service for people with disability, their families and carers, and anyone affected by the Disability Royal Commission.

Call Blue Knot Foundation's national hotline on 1800 421 468 (9am - 6pm AEDT Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm AEDT Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

## OPTIONAL INFORMATION TO INCLUDE

### Contact details

Your name

Preferred contact number

Email address

Postal address

Best way to contact you (please tick):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phone call</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Text message</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Email</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Post</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Another way</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please don't contact me</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other information about your communication needs

Do you identify with one or more of the following groups?

People from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
People from non-English speaking (culturally and linguistically diverse) communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
People from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer communities	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you live in a regional, rural or remote area?

Yes	
• Regional	
• Rural	
• Remote	
No	

Are you including any supporting material? (e.g. photos, statements, reports)

Yes	
No	

Do you want your story to be made public?

My story can be made public under my name	
My story can be made public anonymously	
I do not want my submission to be made public	

## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

These questions are taken from the Royal Commission's website:

<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/share-your-story/questions-help-you>.

You do not have to respond to every question.

### **What happened?**

*What would you like to tell us about your experience or knowledge of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation?*

What setting or domain of life does this experience of knowledge of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation relate to?

Are you telling us about violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation that happened to you or someone else? If it is someone else, who is that person and what is your relationship to them?

When, or around when, did the violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation happen? If you can, please provide us with a date, or range of dates.

Can you tell us what happened?

Have any of your family, carers, workers or others provided you with assistance or support related to what happened?

**Reporting the violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation**

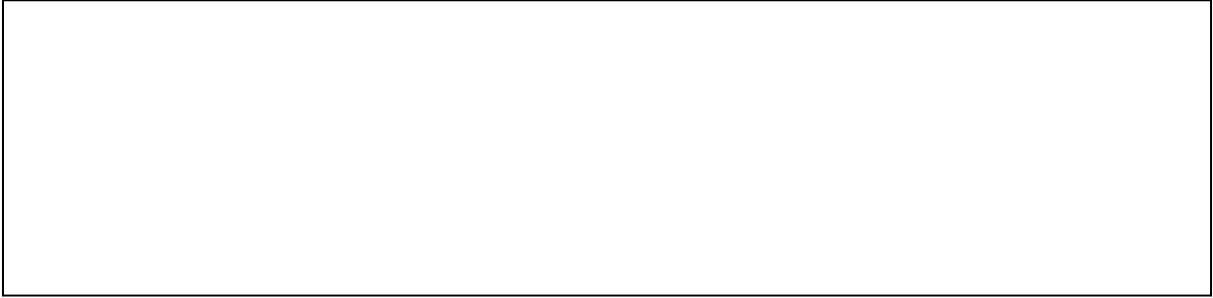
*Have you told anyone about your experience/s?*

Who did you tell?

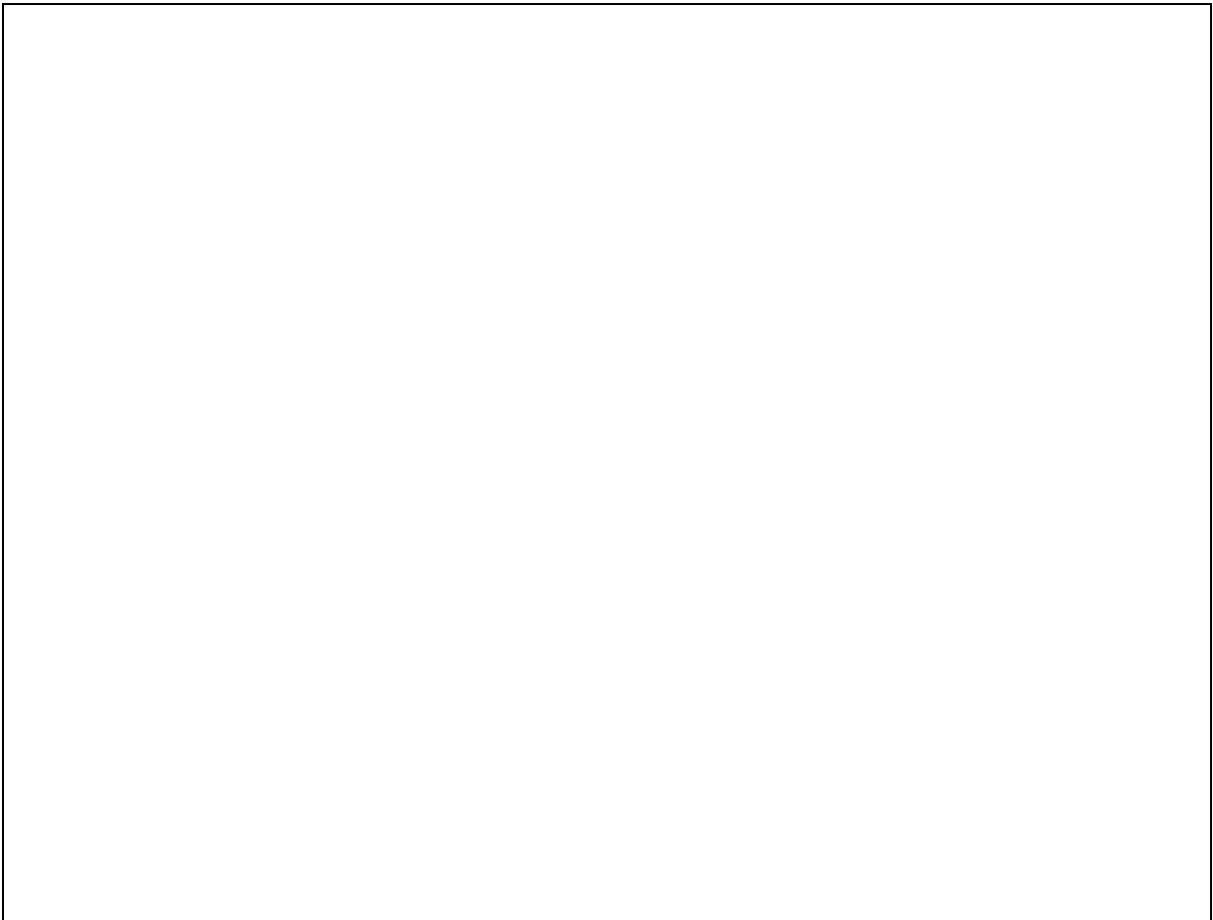
What did you tell them?

When did you tell them?

Did you put it in writing? If yes, can you provide us with a copy?



Was it difficult to report your experience? Can you explain why or why not?



**The response**

*If you reported your experience, what happened in response?*

How did the person/organisation you reported it to first respond?

What else did the person/organisation do about it?

Did anything happen after you reported the violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation?

Was there any investigation of what happened to you? If so, by who?

Did you feel supported when you reported the violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation?

Were you offered any support? If yes, did you accept the support? Why/Why not?

Have you ever received any redress or compensation?

Would you consider the response to reporting good or bad? Can you please explain why?

***Recommendations for change***

Are there any suggestions or recommendations you would like to share, including any examples of what worked well or ideas for how things could be done better? You might also like to tell us about any people who have supported you.

***Anything else?***

Is there anything else you would like to share with the Royal Commission?

What would you like to tell Australia about your hopes for the future?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a person to write their response to the question above. The box is currently blank.