

# WA Response to Disability Royal Commission

## Frequently asked questions

### **What is a royal commission?**

A royal commission is a public inquiry. In Australia, royal commissions are the highest form of inquiry on matters of public importance.

### **What was the Disability Royal Commission about?**

The Disability Royal Commission was informed by almost 10,000 people sharing their experiences of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation over a period of nearly five years. The Disability Royal Commission Final Report contained 222 recommendations for change, with 132 recommendations relevant to Western Australia (WA). These findings are far reaching.

Implementation of the WA Government's response to these recommendations will result in improved legal protections, safer services, and greater accessibility to create more empowering environments for people with disability across the State.

### **How many recommendations is the WA Government accepting?**

Of the 132 recommendations that apply to WA, the WA Government has accepted or accepted in part or in principle, 100 recommendations. The remaining 32 recommendations are being considered further. There will be an opportunity for consultation, consideration of ongoing related Inquiries and development of national directions to determine final positions for these recommendations.

**Is further consideration the same as not accepting the response? When will the WA Government have a final position on the 32 recommendations being considered further?**

Further consideration is required where the WA Government is not yet able to accept or reject a recommendation. The WA Government has considered the Disability Royal Commission recommendations in the context of WA legislation and government policy. Further consultation, research, or policy development is required before a final position can be reached on these 32 recommendations. Where recommendations are for further consideration and not subject to an existing timeline, the WA Government will provide an updated position as part of future reporting.

**When will the WA Government begin implementing these recommendations?**

The WA Government has already begun considering some of the recommendations. Others require consultation, research or policy development before they can be implemented. We will provide regular updates on progress towards implementing recommendations that have been accepted, accepted in principle or accepted in part.

**How much will it cost to implement the recommendations and what is the timeline?**

There is a lot of work to be done to implement the Disability Royal Commission recommendations that have been accepted, accepted in part and accepted in principle. A considered and staged approach will be undertaken, recognising the importance of people with disability being part of governance structures and consultation, along with the wider community. Specific funding requirements will be considered as part of future budget processes.

**How did people with disability inform the WA Response?**

The Disability Royal Commission undertook extensive consultation and engagement with people with disability, their families and carer to develop the Final Report and recommendations. The WA Government acknowledges these significant contributions by people with disability and their families and carers. The bravery of people with disability and their supporters to share their lived experiences underpins the findings of the Disability Royal Commission.

In developing the response, consultation in WA has occurred mainly with relevant government agencies to establish an understanding of the current state.

The WA Government also supported the national Commonwealth-led consultation on Disability Royal Commission recommendations and undertook targeted engagement on some key issues. Previous consultation feedback to inform the development of the WA National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Full Scheme Agreement, legislation for the Authorisation of Restrictive Practices, and the new WA Disability Services Act alongside submissions to the Inquiry were considered in developing our response.

### **Who will be involved in implementing recommendations in WA?**

Agencies leading recommendations will consult as part of planning for implementation, particularly for recommendations resulting in significant changes.

Implementation will require a whole-of-government approach and coordination across the broader national disability reform agenda, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme Review.

WA Government agencies, including the Departments of Communities, Justice, Education and Health, as well as WA Police and the Public Sector Commission, will lead the implementation of several recommendations, with support from other agencies.

The Department of Communities will support the governance structures and coordinate state and national reporting.

### **How will people with disability be involved in the implementation of the response?**

Many matters raised through the Disability Royal Commission are complex and sensitive. The WA Government will engage with people with disability, their families and carers, and the broader community.

The Disability Royal Commission emphasises the importance of including the voices of people with disability to ensure a rights-based and person-centred approach to disability reform.