






At a glance	Commonwealth key points	ACT key points
<p>At the Commonwealth level – 172 total recommendations of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted 13 recommendations: Accepts or support the recommendation in full. Accepted in principle 117 recommendations: Accepts or supports the intent but may consider different implementation. For further consideration 36 recommendations: No position formed yet, which may be due to ongoing inquiries or a need for further consultation. Noted 6 recommendations: Used for recommendations where "it would not be appropriate to indicate acceptance or rejection", which may be due to them being outside the federal government's remit <p>At the ACT level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted 19 recommendations Accepted in principle 93 recommendations For further consideration 15 recommendations Noted 2 recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They maintain that out of the 222 DRC Recommendations, they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct responsibility for 84 Joint responsibility with States & Territories for 85 No responsibility for 50 (State & Territory matters) And 3 classified as "Other". There is no commitment to a Federal Disability Minister or Disability Department. No new governance arrangements. The federal government has not committed to phasing out special schools, group homes and segregated employment. Recommendations accepted in principle include those to strengthen the Disability Discrimination Act, and improve access to information and interpreters, including Auslan. The government has pledged \$369 million towards this initial response, \$227.6 million of which is for an employment program already announced in the May federal budget and also includes \$12 million to amend the Migration Health Requirement and \$20 million for "grassroots efforts to improve community attitudes around disability". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT response sets out the ACT Government's position on all 129 recommendations made by the Disability Royal Commission that it is responsible for. The ACT Government has not rejected any of the recommendations and is 'working closely with the Commonwealth and all states and territories on recommendations that require a national response.' Overall, the ACT Government has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted (in full) 14.7% of recommendations Accepted (in principle) 72% of recommendations Noted 1.5% of recommendations, and Subjected 11.6% of recommendations to further consideration. The ACT is the only jurisdiction to fully accept raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility (to 14 by 1 July 2025) In contrast to the Commonwealth, the ACT accepts (in principle) the creation of a National Disability Agreement The ACT is the only jurisdiction to fully accept updating the national standards for public advocates, public guardians and public trustees

The following table offers a breakdown of what the Commissioners called for, what we as ACT DPO/DRO's asked for, and the responses of the Federal and ACT Governments.







Based on this information, we deliver our verdict.




The table has been organized based on our [Joint Statement of Priorities following the Disability Royal Commission](#). The topic areas include:





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- [Disability Policy and Ministers](#)
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

What the Commissioners called for	What we asked for	What we got from the Federal and ACT Govts	Our Verdict   
<p>Legislative change: The Commission recommends that the Australian government should commit to the enactment of an Australian Disability Rights Act (DRA). Legislation should be introduced into parliament as soon as possible. The DRA should impose duties to comply with CRPD which would then be enforced by a National Disability Commission. As proposed, the DRA would only be binding to Commonwealth agencies however some of the commissioners recommended that it be extended to other entities.</p> <p>The Royal Commission recommends amendments to make the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) more effective including creating a positive duty to end discrimination and changing the legal test for direct discrimination. They also recommend the removal of the ‘reasonable’ defence for unjustifiable hardship.</p> <p>Additionally, they recommend creating provisions for harassment and vilification on the grounds of disability within the DDA.</p>	<p>ACT DPO’s/DRO’s signal our strong support for either a Disability Rights Act or a strong Human Rights Act which binds Australia to enacting the CRPD. We support all the recommended changes to the Disability Discrimination Act. Here in the ACT, we support a Territory based Disability Rights Act alongside (and separate to) the Disability Inclusion Bill. This should be introduced early in the next Assembly.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> The Govt has not agreed to the Disability Rights Act or substantial legislative reform however it has agreed to ‘modernize’ the DDA. In an adjacent process, recommendations have been made to re-establish and improve Australia’s Human Rights Framework. The gov’t has stated that it will consider the Royal Commission’s recommendation in relation to the Disability Rights Act alongside the Human Rights Framework process.</p> <p>The Govt is putting forward \$6.9 million to ‘review and modernise’ the DDA (which has not been substantially amended since 2009).</p> <p><i>ACT</i> Recommendation 4.22 Strengthening disability rights protection in state and territory laws Many of the features recommended by the Disability Royal Commission for inclusion in a national Disability Rights Act are already features of the Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)</p> <p>Recommendation 4.30 Vilification because of disability There is already legislation in the ACT that imposes criminal penalties for vilification of people on grounds of disability. Under section 67A of the Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT), it is unlawful for a person to incite hatred toward, revulsion of, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of a person or group of people on the ground of disability and other protected attributes.</p>	
<p>Guardianship The Commission recommends changes to guardianship to recognise and encourage supported decision-making including seeing guardianship is only a last resort. They recommend that the States and Territories and the Australian Government adopt uniform national decision-making principles.</p> <p>They recommend scrapping the gag provisions which prevents people with disability talking about their lives under guardianship as well as national standards for public advocates, public guardians and public trustees.</p> <p>They also recommend work to support people to maximise financial independence and a review of fees and charges applied by public trustees. They recommend sweeping changes to guardianship and administration legislation to enhance the agency of people under orders and to remove presumptions about loss of agency and capacity.</p>	<p>ACT DPO’s/DRO’s signal our support for shared approaches to Guardianship provided that they do not remove positive assumptions and protections already enacted.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we support work to support people to maximise financial independence and a review of fees and charges applied by public trustees. We support work to enhance the agency of people under orders and to remove presumptions about loss of agency and capacity.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> The government accepts (in principle) Recommendation 6.6 Supported decision-making. However, Recommendation 6.20 to withdraw its interpretative declaration in relation to Article 12 of the CRPD is subject to further consideration.</p> <p><i>ACT</i> Broadly accepts all recommendations on guardianship recommendations with some aspects needing further consideration when considering legislative change. All governments recognise substituted decision-making should only be used as a last resort.</p> <p>The ACT does not have any restrictions on disclosing or publishing personal information about people with disability who are subject to applications and orders for guardianship and administration.</p> <p>The ACT <i>Guardian and Management of Property Act 1991</i> has recently been amended. Some of the recommendations are being considered in light of that process. Recommendation 6.14 Systemic advocacy to promote supported decision-making is subject to further consideration. The ACT accepts (in full) Recommendation 6.15 Updating the national standards for public advocates, public guardians and public trustees</p> <p>Recommendation 6.16 Financial skills development programs states that all public trustees should offer a financial skills development program to people under a representation order appointing the public trustee as a representative. The ACT has trialled this approach with a small number of clients and will consider the outcomes of this trial and the implications of applying this approach more broadly.</p> <p>ACT policy is that public trustees’ fees and charges be reviewed every 3 years. Currently scheduled for review in the 2024 calendar year.</p>	
<p>Advocacy</p>		<p><i>Commonwealth</i></p>	





ACT and Commonwealth Government responses to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
A scorecard from ACT Disability Organizations – August 2024

What the Commissioners called for	What we asked for	What we got from the Federal and ACT Govts	Our Verdict  
<p>The Commission recommends improved access to advocacy including increases to advocacy funding.</p>	<p>ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support for increased funding under the National Disability Advocacy Framework.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we note pressing and concerning pressures on advocacy capacity due to program, changes, COVID, disruption, the NDIS and reform agendas across justice, education, health, service commissioning and other matters. We call for a doubling of Advocacy funding including funding for peaks.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth response talks about \$39.7 million in additional funding to establish a new individual disability advocacy program. The new program will bring together current services to establish a 'streamlined and cohesive' delivery model of ongoing individual disability advocacy supports. Otherwise, the language in the response to the Advocacy recommendations 6.21-6.23 is vague and reiterates present work plans.</p> <p><i>ACT</i> Joint response: Accept in principle Comments: The ACT Government has an ongoing commitment to systemic advocacy and to individual advocacy for people with disability in the ACT. The First Action Plan 2024-2026 of the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033 looks at investigating options to deliver self-advocacy program to enable people with disability to better understand and assert their human rights and establish a systemic self-advocacy program for people with intellectual disability.</p>	<p></p> <p>We are unsure what a streamlined or cohesive model is</p>
<p>Migration The Commission recommends a review of section 52 of the Migration Act which authorises discrimination against people with disability seeking to enter Australia.</p>	<p>ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support to an immediate end to discriminatory migration policies</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> The Commonwealth flags \$12.1 million over four years from 2024-25 to amend the Migration Health Requirement to be fairer for children with disability who are born and living in Australia. It also mentions \$5.2 million ongoing to enable special consideration for child visa applicants born and resident in Australia with a health condition or disability to enable the grant of a visa.</p>	<p></p>
<p>Governance and disability policy The Commission recommends a specific portfolio and a Minister for Disability and Inclusion along with a Department of Disability Equality and Inclusion with people with disability in leadership positions.</p> <p>The Commission recommends that the Australian government and state and territory governments should develop a new national disability agreement to be signed by first ministers which provides a framework for intergovernmental collaboration about the NDIS and Australia's disability strategy by the end of 2024.</p> <p>They also recommend that the Australian Disability Strategy should be aligned with the recommendations of the commission by the end of 2024 with reviews of the state and territory strategies by mid-2025. The commission also recommends that a range of intergovernmental agreements, such as the Housing and Homelessness Agreement and Closing the Gap, should be reviewed to ensure outcomes for people with disability</p> <p>There should be state and territory focal points for the implementation of the CRPD.</p>	<p>ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support for a dedicated Federal Ministry and a new national disability agreement. We support the inclusion of dedicated requirements, funding and reporting within all bilateral agreements especially those concerned with housing, education, closing the gap, health, infrastructure and municipal services.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we support prompt and fulsome responses through an ACT Disability Strategy, the ACT Health Strategy and an Inclusive Education Strategy focused on improving access to mainstream education. These strategies should be robust, backed by investments and policy and evaluation capacity.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> The Commonwealth has not agreed to create a new Ministry or a new national funding agreement. Instead, it merely 'noted' Recommendation 5.6 new governance arrangements for disability, choosing instead to provide an overview of the governance arrangements already in place.</p> <p><i>ACT</i> Recommendation 5.1 Development of a National Disability Agreement Work is already underway in response to the Disability Royal Commission's recommendations, supported by a more than \$13.9 million investment in the 2024-25 ACT Budget. This includes funding to implement the First Action Plan of the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033 (Strategy). The Strategy guides how the ACT Government works to create a more inclusive Canberra with a focus on changing attitudes and building capacity across the community.</p> <p>The Budget also supports the establishment of an ACT Government taskforce to progress disability reform work, including implementing the Disability Royal Commission recommendations and supporting the development and delivery of foundational supports in response to the NDIS review.</p> <p>In addition, \$14.4 million was allocated in the 2023-24 Budget Review to commence implementation of the Inclusive Education: A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT public schools 2024- 34 and the Disability Health Strategy First Action Plan 2024-2026.</p> <p>The formal response to the Disability Royal Commission recommendations, together with work under these action plans, will work to promote and protect the human rights of people with disability in the ACT.</p> <p>On Recommendation 5.7 Focal points across jurisdictions to implement the CRPD, the ACT Government is committed to the CRPD and through the work of the Office for Disability is actively engaged in working across article areas of the CRPD.</p>	<p></p>
<p>Accessible information The Commission recommends a national plan to promote accessible information and communications with an initial focus on responding to emergencies and natural disasters and an increase in the number of Auslan interpreters.</p>	<p>ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support for dedicated and purposeful national work on accessible information.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we note shortages on Auslan interpreters and also in Deaf/Blind communication guides and support increased funding.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> \$12.3 million for a national approach to accessible information and communications under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031. This is to improve national approaches to accessible information and communications for people with disability and build capability across the APS for effective policy engagement, design and consultation.</p> <p>Nothing we could see for Easy Read or Alternative Communications. Instead, mention of 'accessible information and communication for people with disability with diverse or intersecting needs.'</p> <p><i>ACT</i></p>	<p></p>



What the Commissioners called for	What we asked for	What we got from the Federal and ACT Govts	Our Verdict  
		<p>The ACT Government supports the development of a national plan to promote accessible information and communications, accepting Recommendation 6.1 in principle. This plan will be co-designed with people with disability and their representative organisations and will focus on improving accessibility across various sectors, including emergencies, public health, and the criminal justice system. Additionally, the Government accepts in principle Recommendation 6.2 to increase the number of Auslan interpreters through a strategy that includes costed initiatives such as scholarships and professional development, with a deadline for development by September 2024 and implementation starting in January 2025. The plan will ensure appropriate funding and resources for delivery, highlighting the Government's commitment to inclusivity and equal access to information for people with disability. The Australian Government and state and territory governments, through the Disability Reform Ministerial Council, should commission the development of a workforce strategy to increase the number and quality of Auslan interpreters.</p>	
<p>Health The commission recommends work to expand the capacity of the health workforce to engage with people with cognitive disability as well as specialised health and mental health services for people with cognitive disability.</p> <p>They recommend that the right to equitable access be embedded in key policy instruments for health services.</p> <p>They also recommend that there should be a program of work to ensure that adaptations and supports are available within all publicly funded healthcare settings. Also recommend healthcare navigators to support people with disabilities in care in healthcare settings.</p>	<p>ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support for dedicated and purposeful national work in these areas including a National Disability Health Strategy and funding within Health Agreements.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we support a focus on expanded capacity in the health workforce and a right to equitable access with adaptations and supports. We also support disability healthcare navigators. These and the other priorities in Imagining Better should form the basis of a robust health strategy.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> There is very little detail on health, and we cannot locate work on specialized health services or a National Disability Health Strategy. The responses regarding health are limited to people with cognitive disability, reflecting the commission's focus, and largely includes initiatives that have already been funded.</p> <p>There is mention of \$3.7 million to continue the Primary Care Enhancement Program for People with Intellectual Disability to support access to health services for people with intellectual disability. The government noted Recommendation 6.30 Expand the scope of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health claiming it was an appropriate mechanism and would 'dilute the focus of the Centre on the specific needs of people with intellectual disability.'</p> <p>The government accepted that the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care should amend the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights to incorporate the right to equitable access to health services for people with disability and align with the scope of this proposed right in the Disability Rights Act recommended in Volume 4. The government, through Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care will 'develop a plan' to update key policy instruments to ensure they articulate for safe and equitable access to health services for people with disability.</p> <p>The government has also accepted (in principle) Recommendation 6.34 Introduce disability health navigators to support navigation of health care for people with disability. They noted that significant 'scoping' work needs to be conducted before navigators can be introduced.</p> <p><i>ACT</i> The Canberra Health Services Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) aligns with the intent of this recommendation and seeks to improve the experience and outcomes of people with disability, their families and carers when accessing care (see Focus Area 1 of the Plan, relating to Canberra Health Services). Priority 2 is that Canberra Health Services team members are skilled, knowledgeable, and confident in supporting people with disability, their families and carers.</p> <p>The ACT Disability Health Strategy 2024-2033 seeks to ensure that healthcare services are accessible to people with disability, with barrier-free and inclusive physical spaces, reasonable adjustments, and affordability of services and supports. Canberra Health Services will incorporate this requirement into relevant policy and guidance documents, noting there are some health settings where it is not safe for a person to be accompanied by a support person</p> <p>Comments: Canberra Health Services currently provides the Mental Health Service for People with Intellectual Disability. The ACT Disability Health Strategy 2024-2033 Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for People with Intellectual Disability Position Statement will also help inform future planning and investment in the health system to support the mental health and wellbeing of people with intellectual disabilities. The Position Statement outlines priority areas for best practice in improving the mental health and wellbeing of people with intellectual disabilities</p>	<div data-bbox="2623 611 2733 695" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Quite vague and non-committal language: 'develop a plan'</p>

What the Commissioners called for	What we asked for	What we got from the Federal and ACT Govts	Our Verdict  
		<p>Under the <i>First Action Plan 2024-26 of the ACT Disability Health Strategy 2024-2033</i> the ACT Government has also committed to scope, model and pilot a disability health case management and referral service for people with disability and their families.</p>	
<p>Restrictive Practices The Commission recommends stronger legal frameworks for the authorisation oversight of restrictive practices. The report includes recommendations for practices that should never be used at all in different settings.</p> <p>The commission recommends a legislative prohibition of non-therapeutic sterilisation of people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Here in the ACT we support work to understand the most appropriate ways to end non-therapeutic sterilisation of people with disability and urge Governments to work with people with disability on these issues.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> There is a very small measure \$1.2 million towards a whole-of-government approach to reduce and eliminate the use of restrictive practices, through establishing targets and performance indicators within the NDIS and developing a joint action plan with states and territories.</p> <p>The government has deemed Recommendation 6.41 Legislative prohibition of non-therapeutic sterilization as subject to further consideration. Note, the ACT accepts this recommendation (in principle). The Cth states that sterilization falls under the purview of the states and territories and it does not currently have jurisdiction to make changes.</p> <p><i>ACT</i> The ACT Government has accepted several key recommendations on restrictive practices, committing to stronger legal frameworks and enhanced oversight to ensure these practices are only used as a last resort. Recommendation 6.35, the Government accepted in principle the development of robust legal frameworks for the authorisation, review, and oversight of restrictive practices across various settings, including disability, health, education, and justice.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.36 in principle, agreeing with the prohibition of specific restrictive practices, such as the seclusion of children and other restrictive measures in health, mental health, and education settings, aligning with national principles agreed upon by the former Disability Reform Council.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.37, the ACT Government has expressed a commitment to developing frameworks aimed at reducing and eventually eliminating the use of restrictive practices. This includes setting sector-specific targets and performance indicators, as well as consulting with stakeholders to ensure effective and comprehensive implementation.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.39 in principle, advocating for the improvement of data collection and reporting on restrictive practices. It aims to develop consistent data definitions and methods across jurisdictions, with this data published annually to monitor progress and ensure transparency.</p> <p>Finally, the Government agrees in principle with Recommendation 6.40 to establish sector-specific targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction and eventual elimination of restrictive practices, aligning with national efforts and addressing gaps in coverage. Through these measures, the ACT Government aims to protect the rights of individuals subjected to restrictive practices and promote their reduction and eventual elimination.</p> <p>Note work on mental health act review which would address an evidence- based approach to removing Restrictive Practices is still unfunded.</p>	
<p>Education The commissioners with a disability recommended a 28-year phase out of all segregated schools. The Commissioners unanimously supported a legal entitlement for students with a disability to enrol at a local mainstream school, steps to prevent the exclusionary discipline of students with disability and improving policies and procedures on the provision of reasonable adjustments. They also recommended careers guidance and transition support service for people with disabilities plus inclusive education units, workforce reform and work on data. In addition, they recommend improvements to student with disability funding loadings.</p>	<p>As the ACT discusses these matters in the National Cabinet, ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support for funding in bilateral and multilateral agreements to deliver these recommendations.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we support a phase out of all segregated schools along the lines of the roadmap for Inclusive Education. The ACT's strategy for inclusive education should respond to these recommendations and include a clear definition of inclusive education that is not segregation. We support the creation of a right to enrol at a mainstream school and the ability of students with disability to learn in a mainstream classroom. We support steps to prevent the exclusionary discipline of students with disability and improve policies and procedures on the provision of reasonable adjustments. We support a focus on universal design within all school buildings,</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> The Commonwealth has a very vague commitment to supporting the vision for inclusion set out by the Royal Commission but then goes on to specifically reject the recommendations on inclusive schooling saying the 'Australian Government recognises the ongoing role of specialist settings in service provision for students with disability and providing choice for students with disability and their families'.</p> <p>'State and territory governments will continue to be responsible for making decisions about registration of schools in their jurisdictions, with the intent to strengthen inclusive education over time.'</p> <p><i>ACT</i> <i>Has also rejected this recommendation arguing a right to choose.</i> Inclusive Education: A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT Public Schools 2024-2034 and First Action Plan 2024-2026 commit to reviewing legislation and policy to reinforce the right of children and young people with disability to enrol, attend and access adjustments at their local school.</p>	 <p>Sounds very much like passing the buck. The federal government chose to sidestep this debate.</p>





What the Commissioners called for	What we asked for	What we got from the Federal and ACT Govts	Our Verdict  
	digital processes and curricula plus continued increases to the student loading to reduce the ACT’s overreliance on segregation.	In 2022, the ACT Government passed amendments to the Education Act 2004 (ACT) which enshrine in law that ACT public schools cannot exclude any student of compulsory education age. The amendments further enshrine safeguards against the misuse of suspensions, transfers, and in the case of non-government schools, expulsions. This includes requirements to ensure procedural fairness, exhaust all reasonable alternatives, and review reasonable adjustments for students with disability, in both public and nongovernment schools. Work to amend the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) will require national progression	
<p>Employment</p> <p>The commission recommends broader access to employment services including removing the requirement for person to have an eight hours a week work capacity, establishing specific and disaggregated targets for disability employment in the public sector, specific disability employment targets for new public service hires, changes to the application of the merit principle and an adjustment passport. They also recommend that all governments should adopt procurement policies to preference businesses and entities that are able to demonstrate good practice.</p> <p>The Commission recommends that there should be a Disability Employment Rights Council, an amendment to the Fair Work Act and an amendment to the Disability Discrimination Act as well as widening the role of the Fair Work Ombudsman.</p>	<p>As the ACT discusses these matters in the National Cabinet, ACT DPO’s/DRO’s signal our support for an end to segregated employment and improvements to employment services and for a national inclusive employment roadmap to eliminate sub minimum wages.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we urge attention to the recommendations of the ACT Assembly Inquiry on disability employment which remain relevant and respond to issues also raised by the Commission.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i></p> <p>The Commonwealth has not accepted recommendations by the Commissioners with a disability to end segregated employment.</p> <p>The Government has also not accepted recommendations to raise subminimum wages for people in ADE’s stating: ‘The Australian Government requires further consultation with a range of stakeholders before committing to broad reform for supported employee wages. The Disability Royal Commission commissioned research and modelling into the impacts and costs of the proposed wage increase, with modelling indicating there could be significant job losses for people with disability being paid supported wages.’</p> <p>It has however accepted a recommendation to lower the threshold at which people can access the new employment services program (previously 8 hours a week). It has also accepted a recommendation on the training of employment services staff. It has only accepted ‘in principle’ reccs around procurement and public sector employment. It has also only accepted in principle recommendations which would have increased protections under the DDA and the Fair Work Act.</p> <p>It has accepted a stronger referral pathway to the Fair work Ombudsman (Rec 7.27) and Rec 7.28 about improved information about wages and conditions in ADE’s.</p> <p>Reference to the \$23.3 million to establish a Disability Employment Centre of Excellence and \$227.6 million to implement a new specialist disability employment program (already announced). This will replace the current Disability Employment Services program.</p> <p>The Recommendation 7.24 Convene a Disability Employment Rights Council was simply ‘noted’, instead stressing the investments and work currently underway.</p> <p>A new Disability Employment Advocacy and Information Program will be created to deliver information supports for people with disability. The \$9.8 million program will run until 30 June 2027 and be delivered by Inclusion Australia.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.32 End segregated employment by 2034 is subject to further consideration. The response focuses on varied commissioner reviews instead of offering any solid commitment.</p> <p><i>ACT</i></p> <p>The ACT Government has responded to several employment-related recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.18, which calls for establishing specific and disaggregated targets for disability employment in the public sector, the ACT Government accepts this in principle. It plans to set a target of at least 9% of ACT public servants identifying as having a disability by 2026. However, further work is required to confirm specific or disaggregated workforce targets.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.19, which suggests setting targets for new public service hires to include people with disability, aiming for at least 7% by 2025 and 9% by 2030, the response is also to accept in principle. The ACT Government has committed to general representation targets but will undertake further work before confirming these specific targets.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.21, which proposes the introduction of consistent adjustment principles and adjustment passports, the ACT Government accepts in principle. The ACT Public Service (ACTPS) will continue to uphold existing policies on workplace adjustments and will review any new principles developed by the Australian Public Service Commission for implementation in the ACTPS context.</p>	

What the Commissioners called for	What we asked for	What we got from the Federal and ACT Govts	Our Verdict  
		<p>Recommendation 7.22, which involves public reporting on public sector disability employment strategies and targets, the ACT Government accepts in principle. It already reports on workforce representation of people with disability through annual reports and the ACTPS State of the Service Report.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.23, which aims to strengthen disability employment procurement policies, the ACT Government accepts in principle. The current Procurement Values require consideration of diversity, equality, and inclusion, and a review will be undertaken to support these values further.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.32, which recommends ending segregated employment by 2034, the ACT Government's response is subject to further consideration. The ACT Government notes the recommendation's call for the Australian Government Department of Social Services to develop a National Inclusive Employment Roadmap and will work with the Australian Government to consider implications for the ACT</p>	
<p>Housing The Commission recommends that states and territories should immediately adopt the mandatory Australian Building Codes Board Liveable Housing Design Standard for all new dwellings as well as respond to the additional need for crisis housing. In addition, they recommend increased tenancy and occupancy protections for people with disabilities and minimum service standards monitoring and oversight in supported residential services.</p> <p>A majority of the commissioners including the commissioners with disability recommended the Australian government and the state and territory governments develop and implement a comprehensive roadmap to phase-out group homes within the next 15 years.</p>	<p>As the ACT discusses these matters in the National Cabinet, ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support for increased funding for accessible and affordable public and community housing. We also support changes to SDA funding to ensure it does not preference group housing arrangements.</p> <p>Here in the ACT, we urge early adoption of the liveable housing standard, more public housing at the gold standard of accessibility, improvements in non-group housing options for people with intellectual disability, planning reform to grow access and affordable housing, a package to encourage socially responsible, sector-wide leasehold application processes, growth in accessible non group community housing, market development work and greater tenancy protections</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> It has not accepted Recs 7.34-7.44 to phase out group homes saying this is subject to further consideration</p> <p>It has also said Rec 7.40 to Address homelessness for people with disability in the National Housing and Homelessness Plan is subject to further consideration</p> <p>The Commonwealth has only accepted in principle a Rec 7.33 to prioritise people with disability in key national housing and homelessness approaches like the NHA</p> <p>It has accepted Rec 7.34 to Include homelessness in Australia's Disability Strategy.</p> <p>It has only accepted in principle Rec 7.39 to preventing homelessness when people with disability transition from service or institutional settings.</p> <p><i>ACT</i> Recommendation 7.33 Prioritise people with disability in key national housing and homelessness approaches – Accept in principle Recommendation 7.34 Include homelessness in Australia's Disability Strategy – Accepted Recommendation 7.35 Increase the availability and supply of accessible and adaptive housing for people with disability through the National Construction Code - The ACT Government has already implemented part a) and part b) of this recommendation. The ACT Government also aims to construct social housing dwellings to a Class C adaptable, or Liveable Housing Australia gold standard where possible to increase accessibility in the portfolio. Recommendation 7.36 Improve social housing operational policy and processes – Accept Tenancy protections Recommendation 7.39 Preventing homelessness when people with disability transition from service or institutional settings - The ACT Government agrees with the intent of this recommendation and is committed to working with other jurisdictions to support people leaving institutional care. Detailed work is needed to ensure coordination across housing, health, the justice system, and the NDIS. This work will explore suitable implementation mechanisms for the ACT – noting national challenges regarding suitable and sufficient housing options for a range of cohorts. Canberra Health Services Homeless Persons Support Services Guideline assists health professionals to provide patients with resources, information, and linkage to support services to address issues related to homelessness.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>These are areas where some of the highest levels of abuse occur. Not good enough.</p>
<p>Justice The Commission recommended the development of a human rights education and training strategy for National Preventative Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol on Torture. The Commission also recommended prohibiting solitary confinement in youth detention and better disability training within youth detention.</p>	<p>As the ACT discusses these matters in the National Cabinet, ACT DPO's/DRO's signal our support for these recommendations including nationally consistent inclusive definitions of gender-based violence under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children</p>	<p><i>ACT</i> The ACT Government has responded to several justice-related recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission. Recommendation 8.1 on conditions in custody, it accepts in principle and is committed to equitable treatment for people with disability. Recommendation 8.2 on disability awareness in OPCAT monitoring is also accepted in principle, supporting engagement and training improvements. Recommendation 8.3 to prohibit solitary confinement in youth detention is subject to further consideration. Recommendation 8.4 on screening and assessment for disability in youth detention is accepted in principle, with current use of the TIRA tool for early screening. The Government accepts Recommendation 8.5 for</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"></div>

ACT and Commonwealth Government responses to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
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<p>There were a number of recommendations designed to prevent people being subject to indefinite detention as a result of being found unfit to be tried. They were also recommendations around the screening assessing and identification of disability in custody.</p> <p>The commission also recommended improvements at the NDIS and criminal justice system interface to ensure that people are funded in crisis including where interface issues cannot be resolved.</p> <p>In addition there were also recommendations to improve police responses to people with disabilities and ensure Police are covered by the Disability Discrimination Act.</p> <p>The Commission recommended streams of work by state governments to review and fund court-based diversion programs for people with cognitive disability. The Commission recommended that the ACT should develop and fund court-based diversion programs for people with disability charged with summary offences in local or magistrates courts.</p> <p>The Commission recommended raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and to work towards nationally consistent inclusive definitions of gender-based violence under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.</p>	<p>Here in the ACT, we support a court-based diversion program for people with disability, funding for pre-crisis interventions and diversion from corrections, an end to indefinite detention in justice settings and improvements to screening to AMC</p>	<p>disability training for staff in youth detention. Recommendation 8.11 on providing information for courts and legal practitioners is accepted in principle, facilitating resource development. Recommendation 8.12 to implement National Principles for fair trials and eliminate indefinite detention is accepted in principle. Recommendation 8.14 and Recommendation 8.15 on national practice guidelines and policies for screening and identifying disability in custody are accepted in principle, with ongoing alignment efforts. Recommendation 8.16 to support detainees through First Nations organisations is accepted in principle. Recommendation 8.20 on improving police responses to people with disability is accepted in principle, with new roles and guides being developed. Recommendation 8.21 on diversion programs for people with cognitive disabilities is accepted in principle, recognizing the need for significant investment and legislative changes. Lastly, Recommendation 8.22 to raise the age of criminal responsibility is accepted, with legislation enacted to raise it to 14 years</p>	
<p>First Nations</p> <p>The commission recommended culturally appropriate parenting capacity assessments work to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations people in criminal justice settings, the expansion of community connector programs, block funding for first Nations community-controlled organisations to deliver flexible supports, inclusion of a first Nations person on the NDIA board. It also recommended codesign work on policy guidelines for funding for first Nations family members to provide supports to participants in remote communities.</p> <p>A First Nations Disability Forum should elevate first Nations Disability policy with ministers and the commission also included recommendations to grow the First Nations disability workforce.</p>	<p>As the ACT discusses these matters in the National Cabinet, ACT DPO's/DRO's urge attention to the voice of First Nations DPO's including FPDN and we provide strong support for measures to elevate First Nations Disability Policy.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i></p> <p>Has accepted Rec 9.4 Expand community connector programs</p> <p>Rec 9.10 First Nations Disability Forum has been accepted in principle.</p> <p>Note: all recs in this volume have been accepted (in principle).</p> <p><i>ACT</i></p> <p>Recommendation 9.1 Culturally appropriate parenting capacity assessments</p> <p>The ACT Government has undertaken significant reform to increase the cultural responsiveness of its Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS), including embedding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle into the Children and Young People Act. Building cultural responsiveness has also occurred through the continued implementation of the recommendations of the Our Booris, Our Way report, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led review of the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the ACT child protection system, that made recommendations for sweeping change. Further reform has been delivered through the establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Team, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kinship Liaison Officer, Family Group Conferencing and establishment of the Family Connection and Restoration team. The ACT Government recognises ongoing work is required to increase the cultural responsiveness of CYPS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents with a disability. The ACT Government will explore options for co-designing with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and key partners, clear principles and guidelines for best practice parenting capacity assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents with disability, as well as relevant guidelines and training. Where possible the ACT Government will work with other jurisdictions to ensure consistency in the development and implementation of these standards</p> <p>Recommendation 9.3 Cultural safety of First Nations people in criminal justice setting – The ACT Government accepts this recommendation in principle, noting the likely financial implications of implementing actions.</p>	<p>Some progress</p>

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<p>OPCAT Commission recommended a program of work to enshrine the key provision of the optional protocol against torture within legislation. There was a recommendation for nationally consistent community visitor schemes in close spaces.</p>	<p>Here in the ACT we support appropriate funding for an NPM which goes beyond a staff member</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> Recs 11.1-11.2 on adult safeguarding and nationally consistent adult safeguarding functions are subject to further consideration.</p> <p>The response discusses \$4.4 million to drive a nationally consistent approach to state and territory operated disability community visitor schemes.</p> <p><i>ACT</i> The ACT Government broadly accepts the OPCAT recommendations Recommendation 11.7, which calls for resourcing and adopting a broader definition of places of detention, the Government accepts this in principle and introduced the Monitoring Places of Detention Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Recommendation 11.8, which involves legislating the establishment of NPM functions and facilitating UN inspections, is accepted, with existing provisions under the Monitoring of Places of Detention Act 2018. Recommendation 11.11, suggesting a disability-inclusive approach to OPCAT implementation, is subject to further consideration, with a commitment to engaging with civil society and providing additional training. Finally, Recommendation 11.12 for nationally consistent community visitor schemes is accepted, with the ACT working to align its current scheme with national standards while maintaining its scope.</p>	
<p>Disability Death Reviews The commission recommended a Disability Death review scheme to monitor and review the deaths of people with disability and remove avoidable risk factors to be operationalised your national agreement. It also recommended nationally consistent reportable conduct schemes for disability in line with the recommendations of the Royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse.</p>	<p>As the ACT discusses these matters in the National Cabinet, ACT DPO's/DRO's support a Disability Death Review Scheme.</p>	<p><i>Commonwealth</i> Rec 11.16 National agreement on disability death reviews is subject to further consideration and responded to in vague terms: 'will work together to further consider the appropriateness...'</p> <p><i>ACT</i> Recommendation 11.14 Establishing disability death review schemes The ACT Government accepts this recommendation in principle, recognising that the development of a disability death review scheme presents an important opportunity to better understand factors contributing to risk of death among people with disability in the territory Recommendation 11.15 Disability death review scheme requirement Accept in Principle. The ACT Government will review the death review scheme requirements and consider the most appropriate approaches to the implementation of a death review scheme in the territory. The ACT Human Rights Commission considers this recommendation supports the right to life and the right to equality under the Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT) and will be considered a protective function for ACT disability community members.</p>	