



November 2021

Royal Commissions Protections Review

We are conducting a review of the [Royal Commissions Act 1902 \(Cth\)](#) to examine any issues or impediments to people coming forward and sharing sensitive information with a royal commission.

As part of this review, we are seeking views from people with disability, their families and carers, and a range of disability support and advocacy bodies, to ensure we capture a robust understanding of any concerns.

The key objectives of the review are to:

- identify any impediments that may prevent or discourage people from coming forward and sharing information with a royal commission
- recommend policy or legislative options to address these impediments and facilitate greater public engagement with royal commissions, while ensuring royal commissions can still report transparent findings and recommendations.

We have developed this consultation to enable members of the public to provide feedback on their experiences with a royal commission to help inform this review.

How to provide your feedback

There is an online survey available on our webpage. Alternatively, you can fill out the submission form and email it to royalcommissionsprotectionsreview@ag.gov.au.

Or print and complete a hardcopy submission form and send it to:

Royal Commissions Protections Review Team
Royal Commissions Branch
Attorney-General's Department
3–5 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

The responses to these questions will assist in the development of the review and if you have provided publication consent some of your response may be included in the final report.

Add more sheets to your response if you need to.

What is your name?

Note: submissions may be made anonymously. This question is optional. You do not need to include your name. If you include your contact details we will not publish them.

Name:

What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Note: This question is optional. You do not need to include an email address. If you include your contact details we will not publish them.

Email:

Who are you completing this submission for?

- Myself
- On behalf of someone else
- My organisation

Organisation details:

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Do you identify as a person with disability, or the family or carer of someone with disability or disability representative?

- No
- Yes – Person with disability
- Yes – Family of a person with disability
- Yes – Disability representative
- Yes – Other

If other, please specify:

Do you consent to your submission being included in a report of the review?

(Required)

Yes

No

Any information you provide may be used for the purposes of the review, including the preparation of a report. Any information you provide that is used in a report will be de-identified. Any information you provide will not be used for any other purposes other than the review.

**1) Are you satisfied with the options available for providing sensitive information to royal commissions?
Are there other ways of providing information that you would like to be able to use?**

2) What are some concerns or barriers that would make you or someone you know reluctant to provide sensitive information to a royal commission?

3) Do you have any examples of a person having experienced negative consequences from engaging with a royal commission? This could be in the form of receiving different treatment from care providers, family, friends, or employers.

4) Where you, or a person you know, have been willing to share sensitive information with a royal commission, what has worked to reassure you/them that you/they can tell your/their story?

5) Do you feel the law does enough to protect people's identities when they have given confidential information to a royal commission? What other legal protections would you like to see?

6) The Australian Government recently changed the law to give greater protections to people providing sensitive information to the Disability Royal Commission. Since the government changed the law, have you or someone you know been more willing to share sensitive information with the Disability Royal Commission? This may include written feedback, attending public hearings, or participating in private sessions.

7) What do you think would make you or someone you know more likely to provide sensitive information to a royal commission? This may include changes to the law, policies, or other initiatives.