

**7.2 LMM 31/10/2023 – Final Report of Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**

**MOTION:**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Acknowledges the work of the Royal Commission over the last 4 years with the release on 29 September 2023 of the 13 volumes of the Report of the Disability Royal Commission, including 222 recommendations.
2. Acknowledges the courage and generosity of people with lived experience of disability who shared their knowledge and experiences of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation with the Royal Commission.
3. Supports the vision for an inclusive Australian society that enables people with a disability to live, learn, work and engage alongside people without disability.
4. Acknowledges the importance of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability and notes the recommendation for the Australian Government to enact a Disability Rights Act and for each state and territory to establish corresponding protections.
5. Supports the reform of housing policies to increase the availability and supply of accessible and adaptive housing.
6. Supports increasing public sector employment for people with a disability, noting that the City of Newcastle is committed to increasing the number of people with a disability who are employed, retained and promoted at Council and providing better support by implementing the City's Inclusion Diversity and Equity Strategy.
7. Notes the City of Newcastle Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 and the actions taken to create an inclusive community, including:-
  - a. The Count Us In Festival in September 2023.
  - b. Employment Forum and Business Lunch in 2023 to support better outcomes for employment.
  - c. Enhanced liveable housing design provisions in the 2023 draft Development Control Plan.
  - d. Advocacy with the state government in July 2023 to adopt liveable housing design standards in NSW and high accessibility standards for social housing.
  - e. Support for the construction of more social housing in the City with an MOU in 2022 with the NSW government.
8. Commits to the continued implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan over the next 2 years and working with the City of Newcastle Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.
9. Notes the importance of co-design with people with a disability and the need to be inclusive, respectful, participative, iterative and outcomes focussed.
10. Commits to reviewing the recommendations of the Royal Commission as they relate to the roles and responsibilities of local government and working with people with a disability.

## **Background:**

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

Media Release: 29 September 2023

#### ***Royal Commission publishes Final report with 222 recommendations***

Earlier today the Australian Government tabled the [Final Report](#) of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability in the Australian Parliament.

The 12-volume report devotes a volume to the voices of people with disability. It also includes an introductory volume with an Executive Summary and the Commissioners' vision for an inclusive Australia. This is the society in which people with disability told us they want to live – it is also the society in which they have a right to live and that all Australians have a role in creating.

The [report](#) contains 222 recommendations to 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.

Recommendations cover a wide range of areas, including:

- the introduction of an Australian Disability Rights Act to strengthen protection of the rights of people with disability and meet Australia's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- a new Australian Government portfolio specifically responsible for disability, a new Minister for Disability Inclusion and a new Department of Disability Equality and Inclusion responsible for national leadership on relevant policies and programs
- a new National Disability Commission as an independent statutory authority
- more accessible information and communications, and increasing the number, skills and accessibility of interpreters
- a new framework and national principles for supported decision-making
- major reforms to mainstream systems to dismantle barriers that prevent people with disability accessing inclusive education, open employment, and accessible, appropriate and safe housing
- addressing the over-representation of people with disability in criminal justice settings and children with disability in youth detention settings
- increasing culturally safe disability services and supports for First Nations people with disability, and removing barriers to the NDIS in remote and very remote communities
- nationally-consistent adult safeguarding laws, community visitor schemes, and an independent one-stop shop in each state and territory for reporting complaints, referrals and support.

While most recommendations are directed to the Australian Government, some are directed to state and territory governments. Other recommendations are directed to non-government agencies, such as service providers and professional associations responsible for training in disability and related health areas.

The Royal Commission has recommended the Australian Government and state and territory governments publish written responses to the Final report by 31 March 2024.

The [Final Report](#) is available on our website, along with [A brief guide to the Final Report](#) and a brochure called [Listening to First Nations people with disability](#).

### **Final Report volumes**

- [Introductory Volume - Executive summary, Chair's foreword, Vision of an inclusive Australia and Recommendations](#)
- [Volume 1 – Voices of people with disability](#)
- [Volume 2 – About the Royal Commission](#)
- [Volume 3 – Nature and extent of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation](#)
- [Volume 4 – Realising the human rights of people with disability](#)
- [Volume 5 – Governing for inclusion](#)
- [Volume 6 – Enabling autonomy and access](#)
- [Volume 7 – Inclusive education, employment and housing](#)
- [Volume 8 – Criminal justice and people with disability](#)
- [Volume 9 – First Nations people with disability](#)
- [Volume 10 – Disability services](#)
- [Volume 11 – Independent oversight and complaint mechanisms](#)
- [Volume 12 – Beyond the Royal Commission](#)

### **Royal Commission fast figures:**

- 32 public hearings heard evidence from 837 witnesses
- 1,785 private sessions
- 7,944 submissions
- 17,824 phone enquiries
- 14 issues papers, with 710 responses
- 700+ community engagement activities
- 12 policy roundtables or workshops
- 28 research reports