

## Physical Disability Australia's Position Statement On Government's Need To Accept And Initiate Action On Disability Royal Commission Findings

## **29 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Physical Disability Australia (PDA), as advocates for individuals living with physical disabilities in Australia, firmly urges the federal government to wholeheartedly acknowledge and implement all recommendations resulting from the Royal Commission into Violence Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. This critical inquiry has been a beacon of hope for our community, shedding light on the challenges, barriers, and injustices faced by individuals with physical disabilities.

The tabling of this Royal Commission's Report represents a vital opportunity to address systemic issues and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable society. The comprehensive research, testimonies, and evidence gathered during this commission serve as an invaluable resource for shaping policies, practices, and services that will improve the lives of Australians living with physical disabilities.

PDA calls upon the federal government to not only recognise the findings, but to also commit to swift and meaningful action. The outcomes of this commission must be translated into tangible reforms that prioritise safety, respect, access, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all people with disability.

We believe that Australia has the potential to become a global leader in disability rights and support systems. By embracing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and working collaboratively with disability advocacy groups, service providers, and the broader community, we can create a more inclusive and compassionate nation where the rights and dignity of all are upheld and protected.

In conclusion, we urge the federal government to demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of Australians with physical disabilities by acknowledging the findings of this Royal Commission and actively implementing all recommendations and reforms that emerge from this important inquiry. Together, we can build a brighter and more inclusive future for all Australians, regardless of their physical abilities.

Signed for and on behalf of Physical Disability Australia

ANDREW FAIRBAIRN PDA PRESIDENT

SIMON BURCHILL PDA GENERAL MANAGER

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PDA invites other Australian disability organisations, people living with disability and those with a supportive interest in the disability sector to join in this call to ask the Federal Government to implement positive changes highlighted and deemed necessary by the Disability Royal Commission's findings.

For more information or to show your organisation's support in this campaign, please contact Simon Burchill (PDA's General Manager) via <a href="mainto:manager@pda.org.au">manager@pda.org.au</a>, Natasha Nobay (Communication and Engagement Manager) via <a href="mainto:promotion@pda.org.au">promotion@pda.org.au</a> or Andrew Fairbairn (PDA President) on 0466 526 605.

## **About Us**

Physical Disability Australia (PDA) is a national peak membership-based representative organisation run by people with physical disability for people with physical disability. PDA was founded in 1995 and has over 1,200 members from all Australian States and Territories. Our purpose is to:

- Remove barriers through systematic advocacy to all levels of government to enable every Australian living with a physical disability opportunities to realise their full potential;
- Proactively embrace and promote difference and diversity for an inclusive society; and
- Actively promote of the rights, responsibilities, issues and participation of Australians with physical disability.