

Easy Read issues paper

Living in a group home

November 2019

Easy Read

Some words are in **bold**.

We tell you what they mean at the end.

Introduction

Where people live is an important area for the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation** of People with Disability (the Royal Commission).

The Royal Commission is based on the things the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** talks about.

You can read more about the UNCRPD here: [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The right to choose where and how you live is important in the UNCRPD.

The Commission will look at different kinds of living situations and homes.

This **issues paper** looks at people with disability living in **group homes** and how things can be made better.

Living in a group home might be different for people depending on things like their age or gender or race.

It may also be different for First Nations people and people who speak languages other than English.

Issues

People with disability living in group homes can sometimes

- Feel they have no say in their home

- Have more violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation
 - This can be from staff and the people they live with
- Have **restrictive practices** used on them

The Commission will look at

- If group homes are a good thing
- Why we have group homes
- The rules for group homes
- Who is responsible to keep people in group homes safe

We want to learn

- How violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation happens
- How we can stop this happening
- How people can have a choice about
 - Who they live with
 - Where they live
 - Who provides support
- How to get the right support for First Nations people
- How to understand and support people's individual needs

Questions

These questions are thinking points.

1. Please tell us about life in a group home? This can be about you or someone you know.
2. What do you think of the **quality of life** of people living in group homes?
3. Would you tell us about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in a group home?
4. Why do you think violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation happens in group homes?
 - What should change to make group homes safer or better?
5. Do you think some groups of people in group homes are hurt more often?
6. Do you think we should continue to have people living in group homes?
 - What other kinds of homes would be good?
7. Do you know of restrictive practices being used?
 - What restrictive practices are used?
 - Why do you think restrictive practices are used?
8. What stops you making a complaint or telling if someone hurts you?
9. What changes to your supports would make it easier for you to make choices?
10. Are there any other problems about group homes you would like to share with us?

Support

If you are feeling upset by thinking about things that have happened to you, you can get free help for how you feel.

Contact Blue Knot on the National Counselling and Referral Service.

If you are worried about talking to us or making a submission, you can get free legal help from

- National Legal Aid and

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.

Further information about these supports is on our website: [Disability Royal Commission - legal and emotional supports](#)

Have your say

We want to hear about your experiences and opinions on group homes.

You can do this by

- Telling us what you think about the things in this issues paper
- Making a **submission**

The questions and information in this paper are for ideas only.

You can tell us about other things that have happened.

Your response will not be made public if you do not want it to be.

How to tell us what you think about this issues paper

Information and questions are included in this paper to help you tell the Royal Commission your thoughts. You can do this by

- Email to DRCEnquiries@royalcommission.gov.au
- Letter to GPO Box 1422, BRISBANE QLD 4001, or
- Phone on **1800 517 199**.

We would like to hear from you before **28 February 2020**

Please let us know if you need more time.

Make a submission

You can make submissions about your experiences by going to our website

[Disability Royal Commission - make a submission](#)

Contact us

You can phone **1800 517 199** between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

If you are experiencing any violence or abuse, or if you feel unsafe call 000 or contact the Police.

Website – www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au

Word list

Abuse

If someone is treating you badly.

Exploitation

If someone is taking advantage of you.

Group home

For this paper this is when 4 to 6 people with disability live together.

Issues paper

A document that talks about ideas about things that may be problems.

Neglect

If someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.

Quality of life

How well you feel and are cared for.

Restrictive Practices

Things that limit the rights of a person, like being able to move around freely.

Royal Commission

A formal public inquiry.

It is an official way of looking into a big problem and working out what went wrong.

Submission

An official way of giving information to the Royal Commission.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

An agreement which sets out what countries have to do to make sure people with disability have the same rights as everybody else.

Violence

If someone is hurting your body