



Invitation from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC)

June 2020

The Royal Commission is now well underway and is inviting people to share experiences of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability.

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania welcomes this Royal Commission and is committed to responding actively and fully. The Commission provides an opportunity for us to work together with people with disability to create a society that is inclusive, respectful of difference and where all people are valued and honoured.

If you have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation as a person with a disability, or are aware of this happening, we encourage you to tell your story or make a submission to the Disability Royal Commission. You can do this in writing or by asking for a private session with a Commissioner. It can be distressing and difficult to raise these issues and the Commission can provide you with counselling and support. For more details go to <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/share-your-story>

Legal, emotional and advocacy support services are available to people engaging with the Disability Royal Commission. More information about these support services can be found at <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/counselling-and-support>.

You may also like to look at a video produced by VALiD 'People with Disability in the Community'

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/it2dk8zlcg8nb/People%20with%20Disability%20in%20the%20Community.mp4?dl=0>

You do not need to talk to us about your experience before making a submission. Anyone affected by the Disability Royal Commission can access free, specialist counselling support through Blue Knot Foundation. Call 1800 421 468.

However, if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, you can contact Rev Andy Calder on either andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au or 03 9380 8844. Andy is the Synod's Disability Inclusion Advocate and is Chairperson of the Synod's Disability Royal Commission Task Force. Any such contact will be confidential.