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

Research Report

Different ways people with disability take part in the community

How this affects their safety

Easy Read version

How to use this report

Researchers from the University of Melbourne wrote this report for the Disability Royal Commission (the Royal Commission).

When you see the word ‘we’, it means the Royal Commission.

We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 33.

This Easy Read report is a **summary** of a report called *Outcomes associated with ‘inclusive’, ‘segregated’ and ‘integrated’ settings for people with disability*.

A summary only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the other report on our website.

www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/policy-and-research/research-program

You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What’s in this report?

What is this report about?

Lots of people with disability have shared their experiences with the Royal Commission.

They've shared there are things that stop them from being part of the community.

And people leave them out of the community.

We wanted to find out what we need to do to make sure our community:

- supports people with disability
- helps keep people with disability safe.

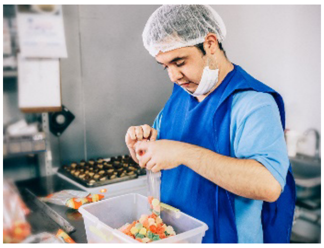
This report is about the different ways people with disability take part in our community.

And how they affect:

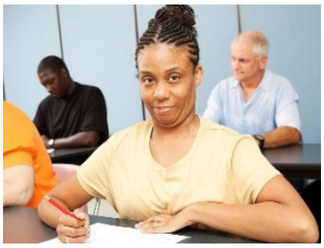
- how safe they are
- what support they receive.

The researchers focused on 3 different areas of life:

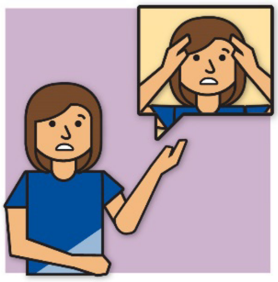
- living and taking part in community life



- working



- learning and studying.



They found out what people with disability experience at the moment.

And what we can change to make sure our community:

- supports people with disability
- helps keep people with disability safe.

What did the researchers do?

The researchers read other research about where people with disability:

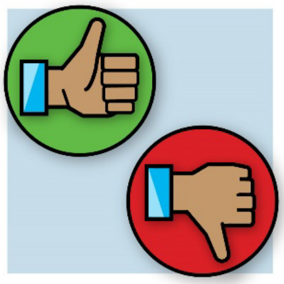
- live
- work
- study.

They read 1,478 documents from around the world.

This helped them understand different ways people:

- think about disability

- support people with disability.



The researchers found some things that work well.

They also found some things that don't work well.

This gave them ideas about how our community can:

- support people with disability
- help keep people with disability safe.

The researchers shared their ideas with a group of experts.

They worked together to test our ideas.

We call this group a **Delphi Panel**.

More than half of the experts on the Delphi Panel have disabilities.

The researchers used what they learned to write a report for us.

They also thought about the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

In this report we call it the UN Convention.

The UN Convention is an agreement between different countries.

It says people with disability should have the same **rights** as everybody else.

Rights are rules about how other people must treat you.

How do people take part in the community?

The researchers looked at 2 ways that people with disability might participate in the community.

One way is when people with disability live their life in the community.

This includes living with:

- other people with disability
- people who don't have a disability.

And they spend time with all these people where they:

- live
- work
- study.

We call this **integrated** living.

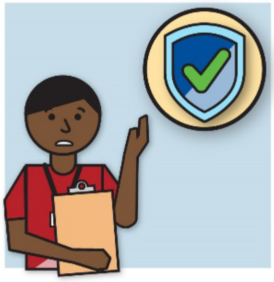
Another way of being in the community is when people with disability live their life around:

- other people with disability
- their support workers.

This might mean there are only people with disability where they:

- live
- work
- study.

We call this **segregated** living.

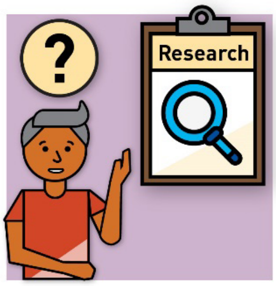


We wanted to know how these 2 ways of living affect people with disability.

This includes how it affects their safety.

We also wanted to know what research other people have done.

This includes research in other countries.



And we wanted to know what research we still need to do.

How does other research explain this?

The UN Convention explains what **inclusion** means.

This is when everyone in the community feels:

- included
- like they belong.

The UN Convention says people with disability should get support to make choices about their lives.

This includes what kind of home they want.

It also says people with disability should get the support they need to live how they want.

They should also have the same opportunities as other people.

But lots of other research had different ideas about what inclusion means.

Inclusion also means different things to different people.

The researchers also learned there is a lot of research about integrated living.

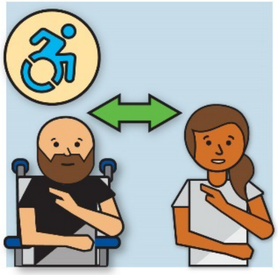
But inclusion is about more than integrated living.

People with disability also need to feel:

- welcome
- safe
- like they belong in their community.

There is not enough research about this part of inclusion.

The researchers also learned that people have different ideas about segregated living.



They often think it means keeping people with disability away from other people.

But segregated living can still happen when people with disability:

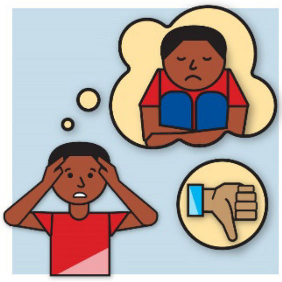
- live their life in the community

but

- don’t feel like they belong in the community.

Some researchers say sometimes people with disability need segregated living.

It can keep them safe.



But many people in segregated living have bad experiences.

And other people often treat them badly.

Why other researchers have different ideas

The researchers found that most of the people who are explaining these ideas are experts.

But they're experts because they:

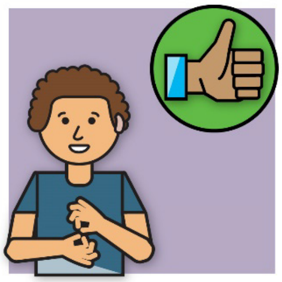
- do research
- work with people with disability.

Most research doesn't include **lived experience of disability**.

If you have lived experience of disability, you:

- have a disability
- know what life can be like for people with disability.

What is good practice?



Good practice is a way of doing things that focuses on what has worked for people before.

Good practice can make sure people with disability get services that:

- support them well
- helps keep them safe.

But they might not work for everyone.

It's good practice to support people with disability to make choices about their life.

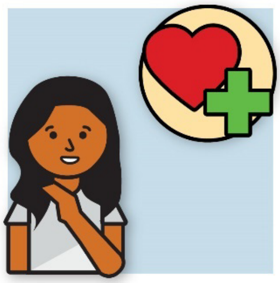
This includes choices about:

- how they live at home

- who they want to be friends with

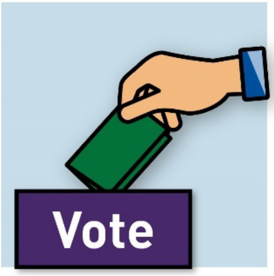
- the type of work they want to do.

It also includes choices about:



- their health and wellbeing

- how they use their money



- how they participate in the community – like **voting**.

  When you vote, you help choose who is part of a government.

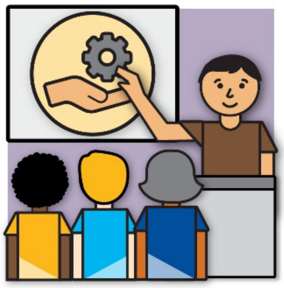
It's good practice to support people with disability to:

- understand what might be a risk
- think about what risks they want to take.

This might include making some risks safer.

Or supporting people when things go wrong.

To make sure we provide services that are good practice:



- people who provide support might need more training

- we might need to change the rules about who can provide support.

Good practice support helps people with disability connect with other people in all parts of their life.

It can also help them to:

- participate in day-to-day life

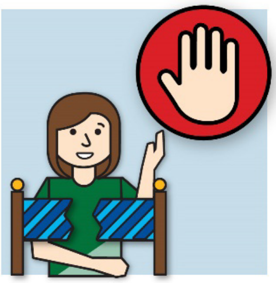
- feel like they belong

- work towards their goals

- meet different types of people.

Sometimes it is good practice for supports to help people with disability to do more than they thought they could.

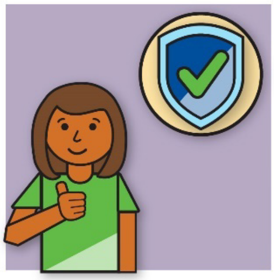
It's also good practice to help the community understand disability.



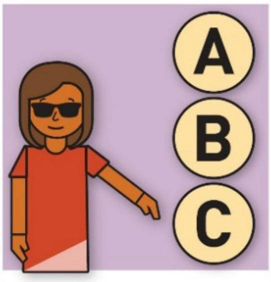
This can help to remove things that stop people with disability from doing something they:

- need to do
- want to do.

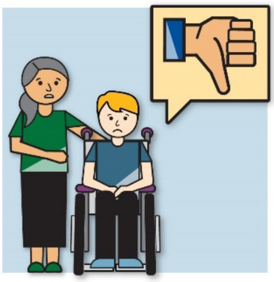
How can we keep people with disability safe?



The researchers think inclusion will help keep people with disability safe.



This is because inclusion supports people with disability to have choice and control in their lives.



It also supports them to have friends and family who can help them speak up when someone treats them badly.

But there is not enough research to know if this is true.

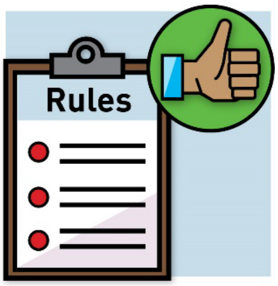
We know inclusion still has risks for people with disability.

But we think segregated living has more risks.

There is a lot of research about the risks in segregated living.

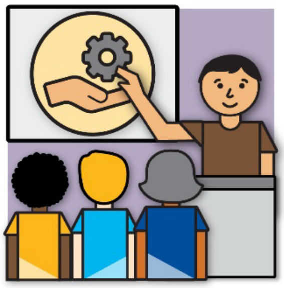
How services can support safety

When there are clear rules about how services should work, it can support the safety of people with disability.



We need to make sure rules about services:

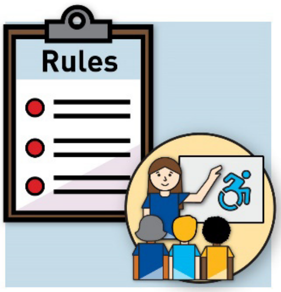
- are easy to understand
- meet the needs of our community
- respect the rights of people with disability.



We also need rules that make sure the people who work for services have the right:

- skills
- training.

Often people who provide disability services have the wrong idea about disability.



So we also need rules about how to train people who work in disability services.

We need to include people with lived experience of disability when we make these rules.

We also need to think about all people with disability in our community.

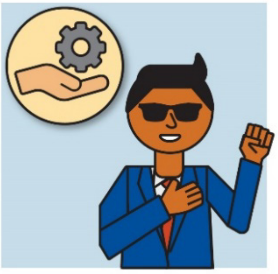
For example, many people with disability do not use services with the NDIS.

But we still need to make sure they are safe.

We can do this by asking about disability more often.

For example, when we check if people are safe:

- in the community
- at work
- when they study.

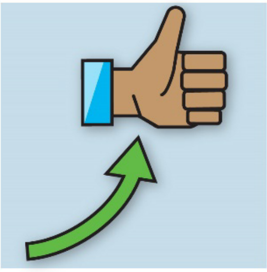


We also need to support people with disability to be leaders in disability services.

What we learned about segregated living

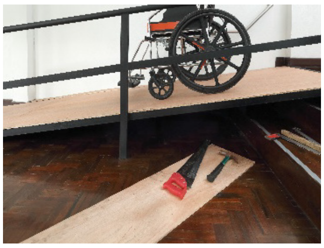
We learned that parts of segregated living can help some people with disability.

For example, people who need a lot of support for day-to-day activities.



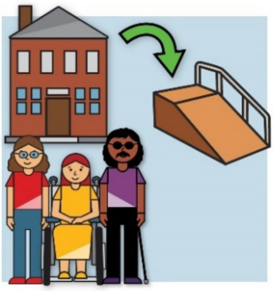
Segregated living changes spaces to make them easier to use.

For example:



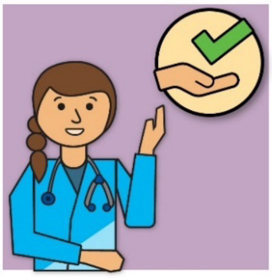
- building a ramp

- adding handrails.



But we can also use these things outside of segregated living.

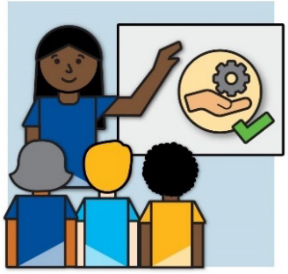
We think they can help with inclusion.



People who work in segregated living can learn to be very good at one type of support.

We call these people **specialists**.

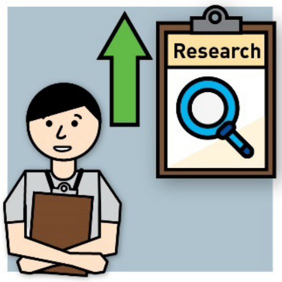
We know we will always need specialists to support some people with disability.



But we think we can still train people to provide the same quality of services outside of segregated living.

We can share what we learned to help more people understand what people with disability need.

What research do we still need?



The researchers shared some things that others can do more research about in the future.

We think research should include **co-design**.

Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.

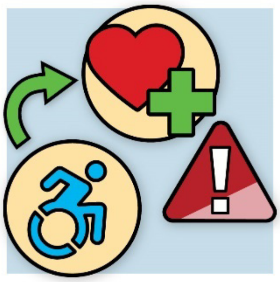
This means people with lived experience of disability should:

- be included in research

- help to plan research.

Research about disability should meet the needs of people with disability.

People with disability need to have a say in the type of research people do.



There is a lot of research that thinks about disability as a health issue.

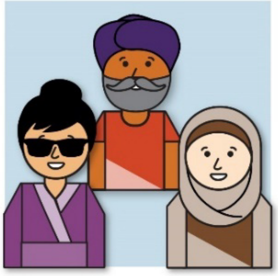
We want more research that thinks about disability in other ways.

We also want more research that thinks about:

- other parts of people with disability’s lives

- how this affects how they take part in the community.

For example:



- their background

- their **gender identity**.

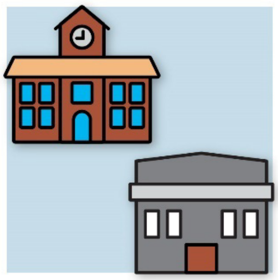
Your gender identity is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.

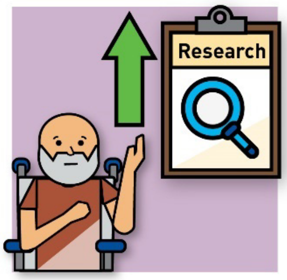
We want more research about people with disability who are also First Nations people.

We also want more research about how people with disability can move from school to:



- university and TAFE

- find and keep a job.



We also want more research about the experiences of people with disability who can't support themselves.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this report mean.

Co-design

Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.

Delphi Panel

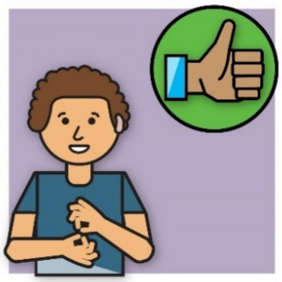
A group of experts who test ideas.

Gender identity

Your gender identity is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.



Good practice

A way of doing things that focuses on what has worked for people before.

Inclusion

Inclusion is when everyone in the community feels:

- included
- like they belong.

Integrated

When people with disability live their life in the wider community.

This includes living with:

- other people with disability
- people who don't have a disability.

Lived experience of disability

If you have lived experience of disability, you:

- have a disability
- know what life can be like for people with disability.

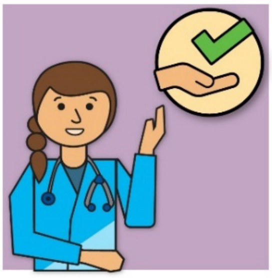
Rights

Rights are rules about how other people must treat you.

Segregated

When people with disability live their life around:

- other people with disability
- their support workers.



Specialists

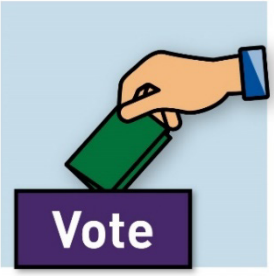
People who are very good at one type of support.

Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.

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

The UN Convention is an agreement between different countries.



Voting

When you vote, you help choose who is part of a government.

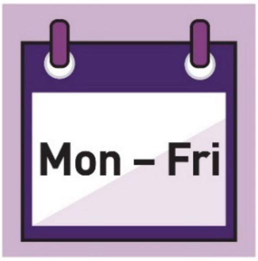
Contact us

You can send us an email.

DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

You can call us.

1800 517 199



We are available Monday to Friday.

You can also send us a text message.

0459 906 629

We are not available on public holidays.

You can also call the National Relay Service if you are deaf or hard of hearing.

133 677

You can write to us at:

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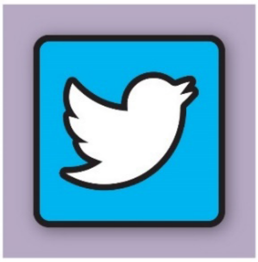
Brisbane
QLD 4001

You can follow us on:

Facebook

www.facebook.com/disability.royalcommission.gov.au



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