

Down Syndrome Australia welcomes Labor's Support for a Royal Commission into institutional abuse of people with a disability

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Down Syndrome Australia welcomes the Labor Party's announcement today that they will support a Royal Commission into institutional abuse of people with a disability.

Down Syndrome Australia, along with many other organisations in the sector has long supported the establishment of a Royal Commission. A Royal Commission would provide a comprehensive, independent review into long standing issues of abuse and will enable people with a disability to tell their stories and will provide justice for victims. It would also make important recommendations on reform, policy, and practices to address issues of abuse.

This decision by the Labor Party follows a 2015 Senate Inquiry into Violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability in institutional and residential settings that found that abuse against people with a disability was 'epidemic' and recommended a Royal Commission. Recent media reports have provided further evidence of the problems which are occurring in some residential settings.

Down Syndrome Australia CEO Dr Ellen Skladzien said, "We are pleased that the Labor party has committed to supporting a Royal Commission. We renew our call for the Government to initiate a Royal Commission into violence against people with a disability. For too long violence and abuse against people with a disability has been overlooked."

ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME AUSTRALIA

Down Syndrome Australia was established in 2011 as the peak body for people with Down syndrome in Australia. Our purpose is to influence social and policy change, and provide a national profile and voice for people living with Down syndrome. We work collaboratively with the state and territory Down syndrome associations to achieve our mission. More information about the work of Down Syndrome Australia and the contact details for local support and services can be found at www.downsyndrome.org.au.

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