



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

Supported decision-making and guardianship

Things we want to change

Easy Read version



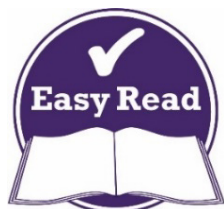
May 2022

How to use this document



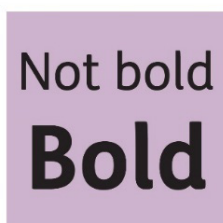
The Disability Royal Commission
(the Royal Commission) wrote this document.

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



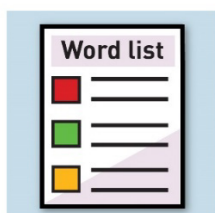
We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



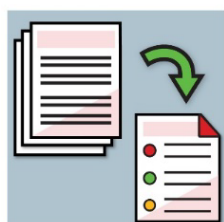
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these bold words on page 20.



This Easy Read document is a **summary**
of another document.

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person may
be able to help you.

What's in this document?

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What is this document about?

A **guardian** is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.

Your guardian might be:



- a member of your family
- a friend
- chosen for you by the government.



We call it **guardianship** when you have a guardian.



We want to understand how to make guardianship:

- better
- safer.



We also want to understand how to make supported decision-making:

- better
- safer.



All people with disability have the right to make their own decisions.

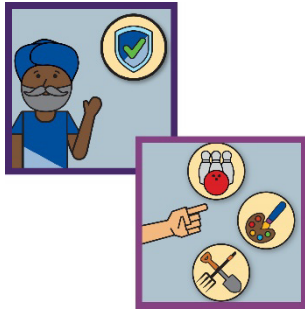
This includes making decisions with a guardian in a guardianship.



Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated:

- fairly
- equally.

What did people say the problems are?



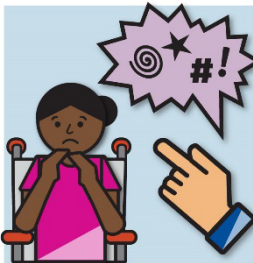
Safeguards are things we can do to:

- keep someone safe
- make sure they still have choice and control.

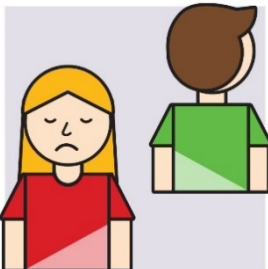
People said guardianship is a safeguard against:



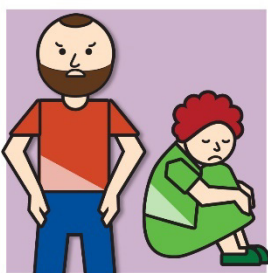
- **violence** – when someone hurts you physically



- **abuse** – when someone treats you badly



- **neglect** – when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you

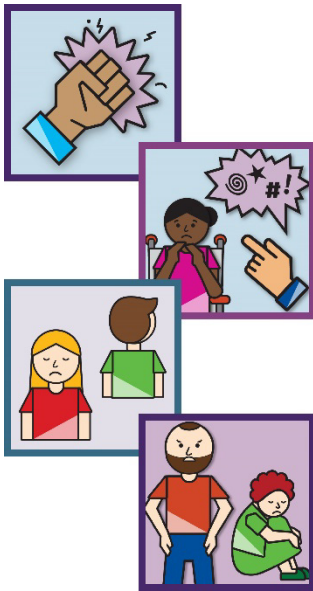


- **exploitation** – when someone takes advantage of you.



But people said guardianship makes it harder for some people with disability to take part in decisions that affect them.

They also told us guardianship can put people with disability at risk of:



- violence
- abuse
- neglect
- exploitation.

How will we change things?



A **roundtable** is when a group of people meet to talk about a topic.

Each person has their say about the topic.

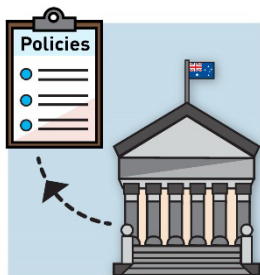
We will have 2 roundtables about how the Government can make:



- rules about making supported decision-making the same in Australia



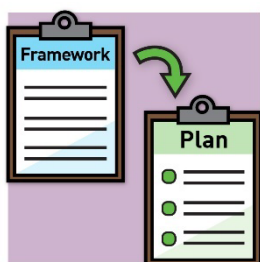
- **policies** for supported decision-making.



Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from.

Roundtable 1 – A framework for supported decision-making



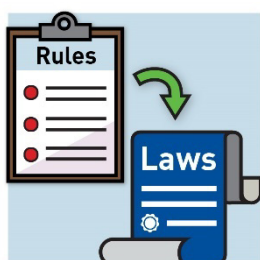
Roundtable 1 will talk about our ideas for a supported decision-making **framework**.

A framework is a plan for how things should work.

Our framework will include:



- principles – important ideas we should always think about



- rules about how to include supported decision-making in laws.



Roundtable 1 will also talk about different ways for supported decision-making to work.

Our principles



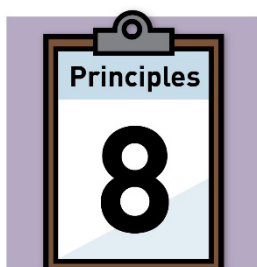
Our principles will help all governments make:

- laws
- policies
- frameworks.



Disability organisations should use our principles in their:

- policies
- services.



We have 8 principles in our framework.



1. All adults have the right to make decisions that:

- affect their lives
- are respected by others.



2. Everyone should expect that all adults can make their own decisions.

3. All adults must be:



- treated with respect

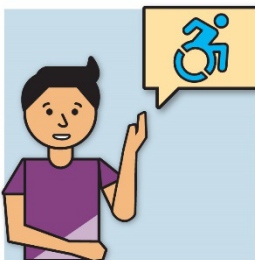


- supported to take risks.

4. Everyone should respect people who:



- support people with disability



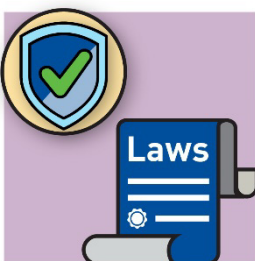
- speak up for people with disability.



5. People should be able to find the support they need to make decisions if they want help.



6. People who need supported decision-making must still control decisions that affect their life.



7. Laws must include good safeguards.



8. People with disability should be included when laws about supported decision-making are made.

Including supported decision-making in laws

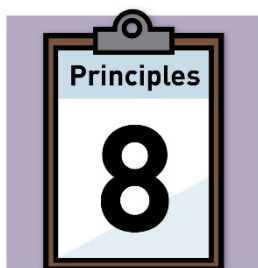


We are thinking about ways to include supported decision-making in laws.

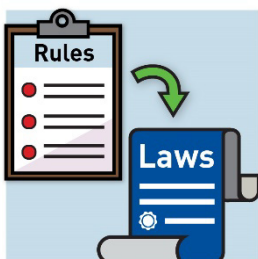
We can include supported decision-making in laws by having goals that:



- all governments can reach



- are based on our principles.



We can also have supported decision-making in laws by including rules about the people who support people with disability.



This includes making the way they support people to make decisions the same across Australia.



This also includes having safeguards about:

- how to choose who supports people with disability
- what they must do.

Using supported decision-making



We are thinking about different ways to use supported decision-making.

This includes teaching:



- people who need supported decision-making
- how to find and use this support



- supporters how to help these people make decisions.

We also think an organisation can be in charge of:



- speaking up for supported decision-making



- helping people and supporters use supported decision-making.

They could work with:



- people with disability



- their families and carers



- disability services.

Roundtable 2 – Guardianship



Roundtable 2 will talk about how our framework can be used for guardianship.



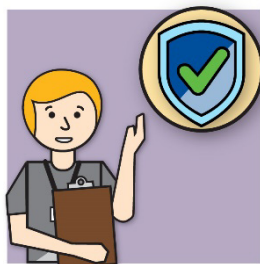
Roundtable 2 will also talk about any issues about supported decision-making.

Guardianship being the same in Australia



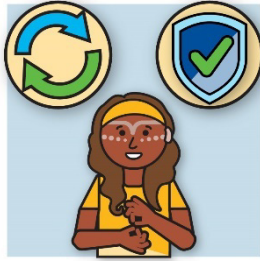
We want to include supported decision-making in guardianship.

We think this will make guardianship better.



We also think guardianship can be better if safeguards are:

- clear about what must happen
- checked from time to time.

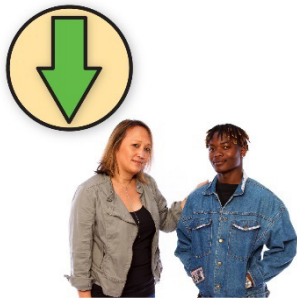


We can change guardianship to keep **First Nations people** safe.

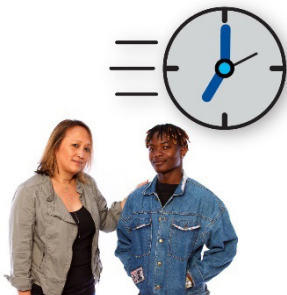


First Nations people are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

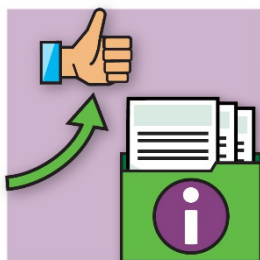
We can also have:



- less people in guardianship

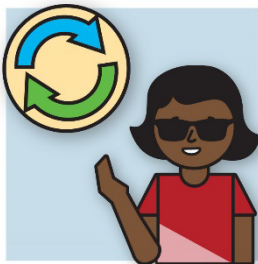


- guardianship that doesn't last a long time.



We can make collecting information about guardianship better.

Questions for the roundtables



We want to know what you think about ideas for changing:

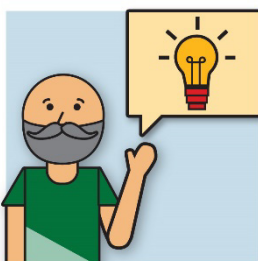
- supported decision-making
- guardianship.



These questions are just a guide.



You don't have to answer these questions at the roundtables.



You can share your own ideas about:

- supported decision-making
- guardianship.

Questions for you to think about



Do you agree with how we want to change:

- supported decision-making?
- guardianship?



If you don't agree with what we want to change, what would you change about:

- supported decision-making?
- guardianship?



Why would you change those things?

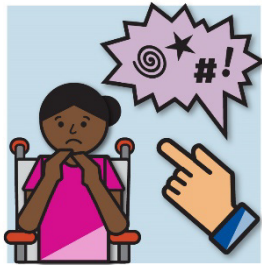


What problems might happen if we try to change:

- supported decision-making?
- guardianship?

Word list

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



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



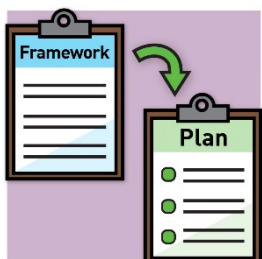
Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



First Nations people

First Nations people are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Framework

A framework is a plan for how things should work.

Guardian

A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.



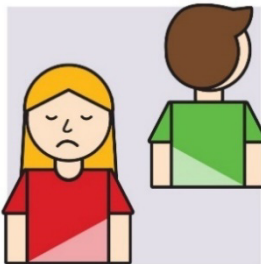
Your guardian might be:

- a member of your family
- a friend
- chosen for you by the government.



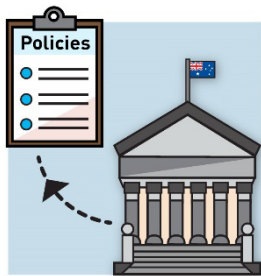
Guardianship

We call it guardianship when you have a guardian.



Neglect

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



Policies

Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated:

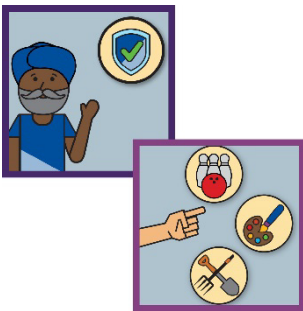
- fairly
- equally.



Roundtable

A roundtable is when a group of people meet to talk about a topic.

Each person has their say about the topic.



Safeguards

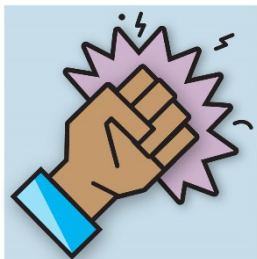
Safeguards are things we can do to:

- keep someone safe
- make sure they still have choice and control.



Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



Violence

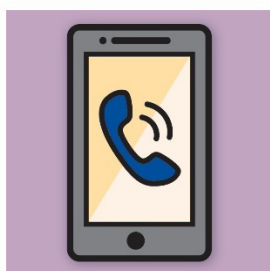
Violence is when someone hurts you physically.

Contact us



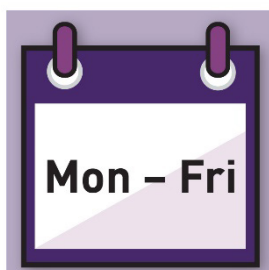
You can email us at

DRcenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au



If you have a question, you can call us on

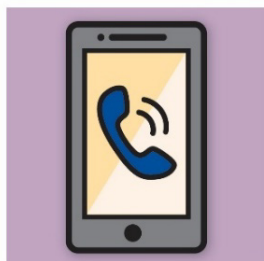
1800 517 199.



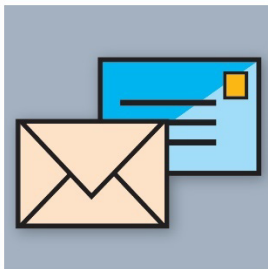
We are available on Monday to Friday.



We are not available on public holidays.



You can also call the National Relay Service
on **133 677.**



You can write to us at:

GPO Box 1422

Brisbane

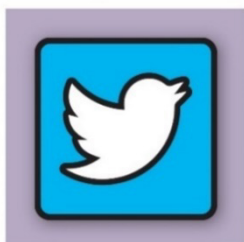
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