



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

# Research Report

**Changing attitudes towards people with disability**

**Easy Read version**



**May 2022**

## How to use this report



A group of researchers wrote this report for the Disability Royal Commission (the Royal Commission).

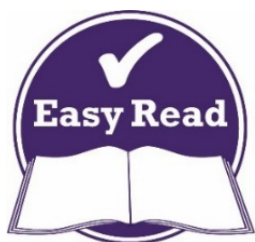


These researchers were from:

- UNSW Sydney
- Flinders University.

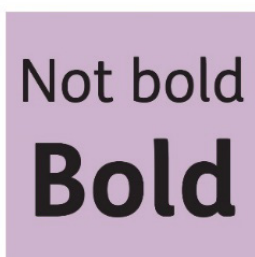


When you see the word 'we', it means the Royal Commission.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 21.



This Easy Read report is a summary of a report called *Changing community attitudes to improve inclusion of people with disability*.

A **summary** only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the full report on our website.

[disability.royalcommission.gov.au/research](http://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/research)



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?

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## What's this report about?



This report is about our research on **attitudes** towards people with disability.



Attitudes are what you:

- think
- feel
- believe.



We want to know how the community can change its attitudes towards people with disability.

This includes the community's behaviours.



This can make our community more **inclusive**.

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



When our community is inclusive, it means people with disability:

- are treated like equals
- have the same **human rights** as other people.



Human rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

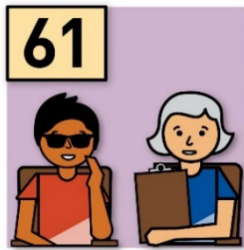
- fairly
- equally.

## How did the researchers do the study?



Researchers looked at other studies about how to change community:

- attitudes
- behaviours.



Then the researchers ran **interviews** with 61 people in Australia.



When you interview someone, you ask questions about:

- what they know
- their experiences.

In the interviews, researchers asked people about:

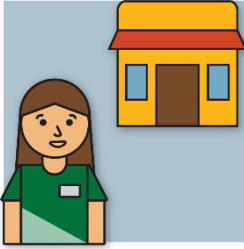


- what they knew about community attitudes

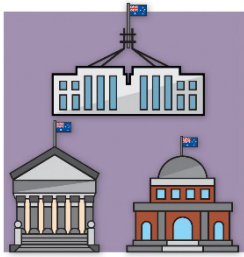


- how to change community attitudes.

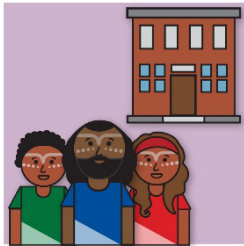
The people in the interviews were from:



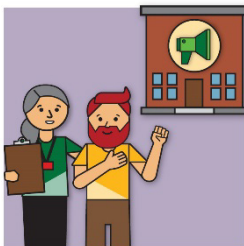
- businesses



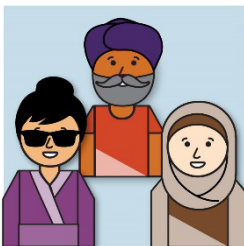
- governments



- community organisations



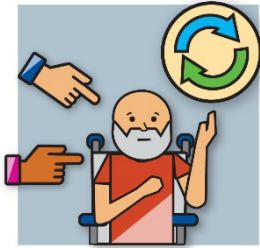
- advocacy organisations – groups that speak up for people with disability.



Some people in the interviews were people with disability from different backgrounds.

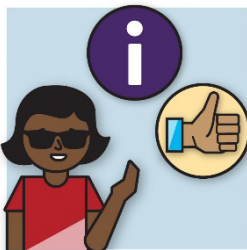


## What did we learn from the research?



There are lots of different ways to change attitudes towards people with disability.

We call these **interventions**.



We learned when we want to change community attitudes, there must be good information about attitudes at the moment.



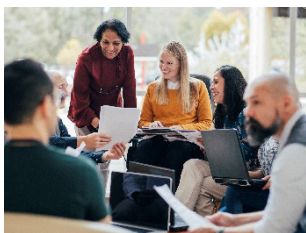
This includes teaching the community about attitudes.



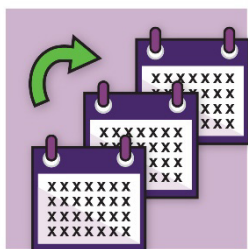
Interventions from the government for being inclusive are also very important.

## What makes interventions work well?

We learned that interventions must:



- be looked at with other interventions



- last a long time

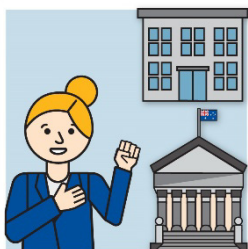


- checked to make sure they work.

Attitudes can change when more people with disability:



- take part in the community



- are leaders of organisations and governments.

## Diversity and people with disability

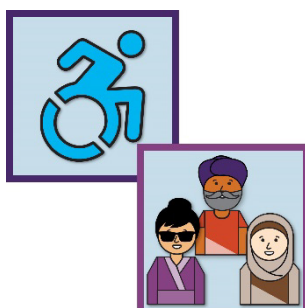


**Diversity** is what makes people different from each other.



Most interventions talk about one part of diversity.

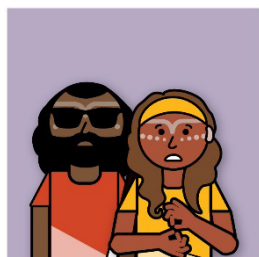
For example, most interventions talk about:



- one part of disability
- or
- one part of diversity, like your background.



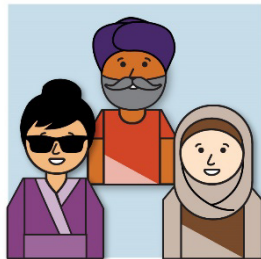
Intervention that work well must talk about those things together.



Interventions must talk about changing attitudes towards **First Nations people** with disability.



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



Interventions must talk about changing attitudes towards **culturally and linguistically diverse people (CaLD)** people with disability.



CaLD people:

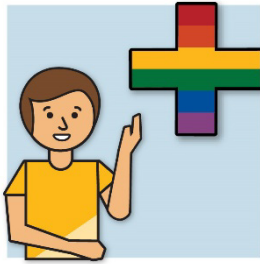
- come from different countries or backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



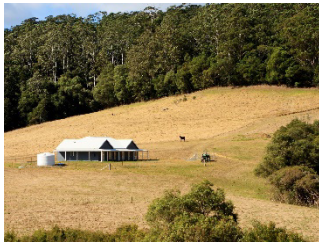
Interventions must talk about changing attitudes towards **LGBTQI+** people with disability.



LGBTQI stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, intersex.



The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTQI+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.

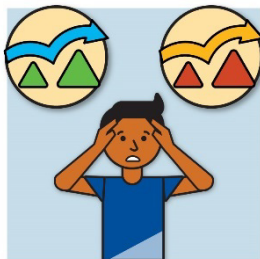


Interventions must talk about changing attitudes towards people with disability who live far from big cities and towns.

If interventions don't talk about the diversity of people with disability:

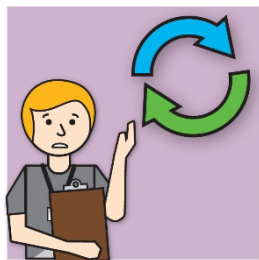


- the community won't change their attitudes

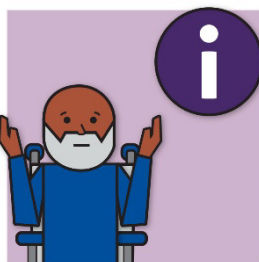


- these people will face more challenges.

## Checking how attitudes have changed



Checking how attitudes have changed can be hard.



There wasn't much information about checking how attitudes have changed over a long period of time.



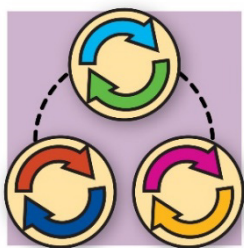
If we check how attitudes have changed, it can help us make interventions that work well.



It would be good for governments to collect more information about changing and checking:

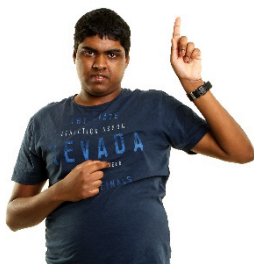
- attitudes
- behaviours.

## Different areas of intervention

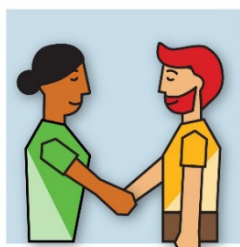


There are different areas of intervention to support the different areas of change.

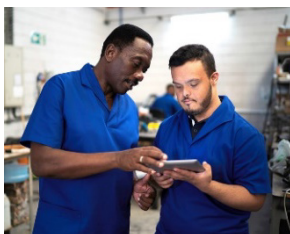
The areas of intervention include how:



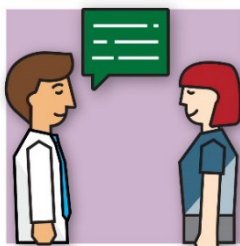
- people think about themselves



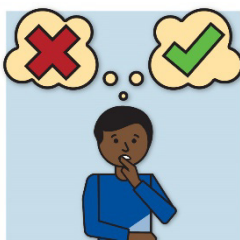
- people connect with other people



- organisations work with people with disability

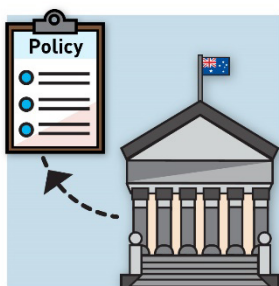


- the community and government work together



- interventions work for all of these people and places.

## Policies that support people to change their attitudes



**Policies** are:

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



People should use different types of policies that support other people to change their attitudes.

For example, these policies can be about how to:



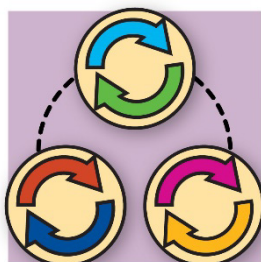
- communicate with people



- manage money.



## Interventions that support people to change their attitudes



There are different types of interventions to support people to change their attitudes.

These types of intervention include:



- giving people good information about disability



- supporting organisations to work well with people with disability



- making laws to include people with disability in the community.

## What do we want to happen next?



We want people to have support to change their:

- attitudes
- behaviour.



We want organisations to keep track of what attitudes and behaviours have changed.



We also want these organisations to keep track of what happens when they change.



We want governments to support people to change their:

- attitudes
- behaviour.

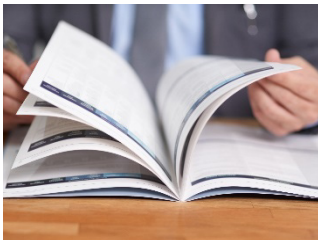
The government can support people by:



- changing policies



- changing interventions



- checking the results of these changes.



We want the community to understand what can help people change their attitudes.

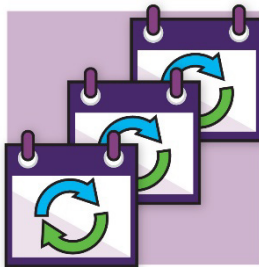
This can be:



- including more people with disability



- having good leaders



- thinking about changing attitudes over a long period of time



- checking what happens when we change our attitudes.

## Word list

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



### **Attitudes**

Attitudes are what you:

- think
- feel
- believe.



### **Culturally and linguistically diverse people (CaLD)**

CaLD people:

- come from different countries or backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



### **Diversity**

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.



### **First Nations people**

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



## Human rights

Human rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

- fairly
- equally.



## Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



## Interventions

There are lots of different ways to change attitudes towards people with disability.

We call these interventions.



## Interviews

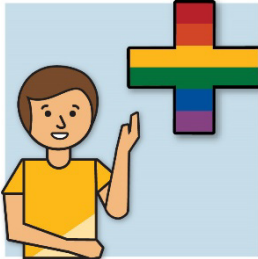
When you interview someone, you ask questions about:

- what they know
- their experiences.

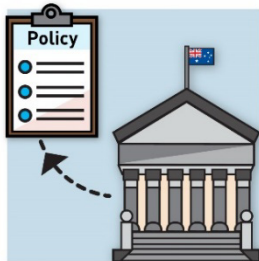


## LGBTQI+

LGBTQI stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, intersex.



The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTQI+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



## Policies

Policies are:

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



## Summary

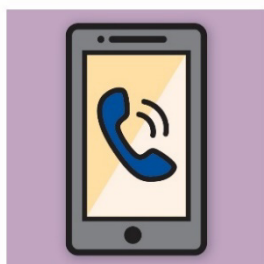
A summary only includes the most important ideas.

## Contact us

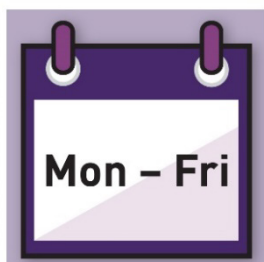


You can email us at

**[DRConquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:DRConquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)**



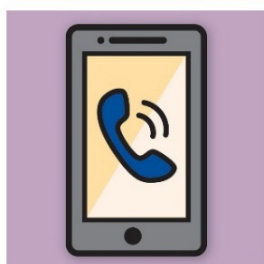
If you have a question, you can call us on  
**1800 517 199.**



We are available on Monday to Friday.

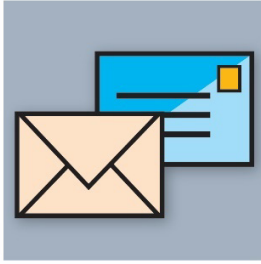


We are not available on public holidays.



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





You can write to us at:

GPO Box 1422

Brisbane

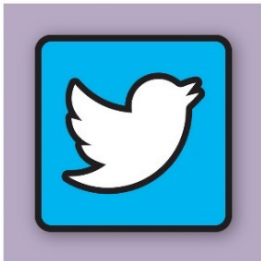
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