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# A Consultations

## A.1 Conduct of the inquiry

Following receipt of the terms of reference, the Commission placed notices on the inquiry website, advertised in national and metropolitan newspapers and sent a circular to a wide range of individuals and organisations, inviting participation in the inquiry. The Commission then embarked on an extensive round of informal consultations to help it understand the key issues and to become aware of the most appropriate ways of engaging with people with different disabilities.

The Commission also commenced discussions with the Independent Panel established by the Government to advise the Commission, and the Commission met with the panel at frequent intervals during the course of the inquiry (chapter 1).

In May 2010, the Commission released several documents in different formats, and an online Auslan presentation, to help people and organisations provide their views to the Commission:

- A full issues paper covering the issues in detail, indicated some particular matters on which it sought information, and invited formal public submissions.
- A short set of questions addressing the main issues for people wanting to provide a personal response based on their personal experiences (perhaps made in confidence).
- A short Auslan presentation of the key questions and a text version of the Auslan presentation was placed on the inquiry website.
- An Easy English version of the key issues was also made available. It was prepared in a questionnaire format that allowed people with disabilities or their support worker/s to write answers on the printed document, to be returned to the Commission.

Accompanying this material was a circular that advised participants about the different means by which they could make their views known to the Commission, explained how the Commission intended to publish material so as to reach the most

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people and provided information as to how the public hearings would be organised to facilitate their involvement.

As explained in chapter 1, initial public hearings were held in June and July 2010, and the draft report was released on 28 February 2011. The draft report was distributed widely and made available on the inquiry website for downloading in whole or in part. Most participants were sent an 80-page report that contained the terms of reference, key points, an extended overview that summarised the Commission's findings and analysis, and all draft recommendations and requests for information. A smaller number of participants, mainly governments, major disability organisations, academics and research centres, were also sent several hundred pages of supporting chapters and appendices. However, all of this material could be read on the inquiry website, and printed copies were available to anyone on request.

Public hearings were held in April 2011 to discuss the draft report. In total, the Commission held 23 days of public hearings, at which 237 presentations were made, and received over 1000 public submissions, of which more than 400 were received in response to the draft report.

All transcripts and public submissions have been placed on the inquiry website and will remain there indefinitely as part of the public record of the inquiry.

The Commission also benefited from discussions with a wide range of interested parties in Australia and New Zealand during the course of the inquiry. A list of individuals and organisations that the Commission held discussions with is contained in section A.2.

To help it address a range of issues relevant to the introduction of a National Injury Insurance Scheme for people with catastrophic injuries resulting from medical treatment, the Commission held a Treatment Injury Workshop in Sydney on 19 May 2011. A list of all attendees is given in section A3.

The Commission thanks all those who contributed to this inquiry.

## **A.2 Visits and discussions**

### **Australia**

Aboriginal Disability Network

ACT Government departments

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Advanced Personnel Management

Arryonga Community Health Centre, Arryonga, Northern Territory

Australian Blindness Forum

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

Australian ICF<sup>1</sup> Disability and Rehabilitation Research Program, University of Sydney

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Australian Local Government Association

Australian Lung Foundation

Australian Public Service Commission

Australian Social Inclusion Board

Baptcare

Graham Bashford

Brightwater Care Group

Bill Buckingham

Café 64, Walgett, New South Wales

Carers Australia (national meeting of all branches)

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Northern Territory

Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney

Centrelink

Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, Victoria

Chris Cuff

Comcare

CRS Australia

Darwin Community Legal Centre

Darwin roundtable (National Disability Services, Northern Territory; Somerville Community Services; Total Recreation; National Disability Coordination Officer, Charles Darwin University; Autism Northern Territory; Step Out Community Access Service [from Katherine by teleconference]; Lifestyle Solutions)

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<sup>1</sup> ICF refers to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (see [http://sydney.edu.au/health\\_sciences/aidarrp/about\\_us.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/health_sciences/aidarrp/about_us.shtml)).

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Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Department of Health and Ageing  
Department of Human Services (Australian Government)  
Department of Finance and Deregulation  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Disabilities Research Unit, University of Adelaide  
Disability Advocacy Service, Northern Territory  
Disability ACT  
forum hosted by the Disability Coalition of Western Australia (attendees included  
National Disability Services WA; the Developmental Disability Council of WA;  
People with Disabilities WA; Headwest; Advocacy Southwest; CASA  
(Committed About Securing Accommodation for People with Disabilities); the  
Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre; and Carers WA)  
Disability Services Commission, Western Australia  
Disability Services Expo  
Dorothy Sales Cottages  
Dyson Consulting Group (Maree Dyson)  
First Peoples Disability Network  
Golden City Support Services  
Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities and Heads of Compulsory Third  
Party Authorities (National, and Long Term Support Working Group)  
Professor Ian Hickie AM, Psychiatry, School of Medical Sciences, University of  
Sydney  
Insurance Council of Australia  
Integrated Disability Association, Northern Territory  
Koomarri Employment Services  
Law Council of Australia  
Local Government Association of South Australia and Local Government Risk  
Services  
Professor Patrick McGorry AO  
Mental Health Commission, Western Australia  
Mental Health Council of Australia

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Mission Australia  
Moree — disability service providers roundtable; Newell Advocacy  
Motor Accident Insurance Board, Tasmania  
MS Australia  
National Council on Intellectual Disability  
National Disability Alliance  
National Disability Services  
National People with Disabilities and Carer Council  
New South Wales Council for Intellectual Disability  
New South Wales Government departments  
New South Wales Lifetime Care and Support Authority  
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women’s Council, Alice Springs,  
Northern Territory  
Northern Territory Government departments, Alice Springs and Darwin  
Perth Home Care Services  
Physical Disabilities Australia  
Queanbeyan Hospital  
Queensland Government departments  
Professor Dinah Reddihough, Director of Developmental Medicine, Royal  
Children’s Hospital, Melbourne  
Royal Society for the Blind, South Australia  
Supreme Court of Victoria, Senior Master’s Office  
Social Inclusion Board of South Australia  
South Australian Government departments and agencies  
SA Mutual Liability Scheme  
St Giles Society  
Tasmanian Government departments  
Dr Jane Tracy, Centre for Developmental Disability Health, Monash University  
Transport Accident Commission  
The Treasury  
UnitingCare Australia  
Victorian Government departments

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Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

Western Australian Government

Professor Harvey Whiteford, Psychiatry and Population Health, University of Queensland

Worksafe Victoria

## **New Zealand**

Accident Compensation Corporation

New Zealand Government departments

Kaleidoscope Consulting International

## **United Kingdom**

HM Treasury

### **A.3 Treatment injury workshop**

In May, 2011, the Commission organised a workshop to discuss a range of issues relevant to the introduction of a National Injury Insurance Scheme for people with catastrophic injuries resulting from medical treatment. Issues discussed included coverage of treatment injury under the NIIS, risk management, financing of treatment injury claims and implementation and transitional issues.

Attendees were as follows:

- Australian Medical Association
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Medical Insurance Group Australia
- Avant Mutual
- MDA National
- School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Medicine, The University of Adelaide
- The NSW Self Insurance Corporation (NSW Treasury)
- The Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Queensland Government Insurance Fund

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- Victorian Managed Insurance Authority
  - Therapeutic Goods Administration
  - NSW Lifetime Care and Support Authority
  - Medical Indemnity Industry Association