

# **The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Submission to the Disability Royal Commission: Easy Read Summary**

## **Background Information**

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) is a medical college which trains and educates physicians (sometimes referred to as specialists) to help treat different illness and injuries to improve a person's health.

The RACP understands that people with disability experience:

- violence – if someone is hurting you physically
- abuse – if someone is treating you badly
- neglect – if someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you
- exploitation – if someone is taking advantage of you.

These experiences negatively impact both the person with disability and the people who help look after them, like family members and carers.

People with disability have worse health than other people and can face barriers when they try to get the health care they need.

People with disability have the right to decent and accessible healthcare. Doctors and other healthcare workers play an important role in improving the lives of people with disability.

## **The RACP Submission**

The RACP submission suggests ways that Governments in Australia can improve healthcare for people with disability.

The RACP submission is split into 3 sections.

Section 1 outlines significant changes that can be made which would improve health care. These significant changes are:

- Ensure a human-rights centred approach – this section talks about how people with disability should be treated fairly.
- Reduce levels of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability – this section outlines some ways in which these negative experiences can be reduced in the health care sector.
- Provide person centred, integrated care – this section talks about ways in which different services for people with disability should be joined up to make them easier to access.
- Improve the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the NDIS) – this section suggests ways to make the NDIS easier to access and NDIS processes simpler.
- Enhance the systems which support the health and disability sectors – this section explains why it is important to collect data to improve the health and disability sectors.

Section 2 of the RACP submission is about the experience of different groups of people with disability when they use health care services. This includes the experiences of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Children and young people
- Adults and older people
- People who live in rural and remote areas
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Section 3 is about improving the training of healthcare workers. This would help healthcare workers better understand and treat people with disability.