

When including references to disability and disabled people as part of coverage of the Royal Commission of Inquiry: Covid-19 Pandemic, we encourage you to consider the language and framing that you use. As well as the accessibility of your content.

You might want to consider the following:

- Ensure that video content is captioned with subtitles and provide audio description where relevant, so people know what is happening in a video and can follow along.
- Avoid identifying a person by their specific disability or medical diagnosis; instead, say [name of person] has [name of disability], and only use their diagnosis if it is relevant to the story.
- Avoid saying that someone suffers from their disability; instead, choose phrasing such as lives with [name of disability].
- Avoid saying that a disabled person is wheelchair-bound or limited by their mobility devices. Instead, choose phrasing such as “John Doe uses a wheelchair.”
- Avoid saying “the disabled”; by using this phrasing, it can imply othering, which dehumanises groups of people, making it easier to discriminate against them. Always opt for identity-first or person-first language and say “disabled people” or “people with disabilities”.
- These hearings are one part of the Commission’s evidence collection mechanisms. While people can follow along on the livestream, which is captioned, the information from these hearings will also be published later, in multiple formats, as part of the Royal Commission’s final reports.
- At the closure of the hearings, alternative formats will also be provided covering the key messages about what was shared.