



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC17-052127

24 JUL 2017

Ms Carolyn Frohmader
Women with Disabilities Australia Inc
PO Box 407
LENAH VALLEY TAS 7008

Dear Ms Frohmader

Thank you for your letter of 7 June 2017 providing a Civil Society Statement to the Commonwealth Government asking the Government to call a Royal Commission into violence against people with disability.

I raised the issue of disability abuse at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 9 June 2017. COAG asked the Disability Reform Council (DRC) to consider the treatment of people with disability in residential settings and report back to COAG at its next meeting.

There have been numerous inquiries and reports which reveal much about the extent and the circumstances in which abuse of people with disability has occurred, and tell us more needs to be done. The Government has been using findings to act. The Senate Inquiry into violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability in institutional and residential settings, that received over 150 submissions and included six public hearings, has been particularly important. These reports have informed our development, with state and territory governments, of the National Quality and Safeguarding Framework for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Importantly, we need to make sure all people with disability, their families and carers are encouraged to use available mechanisms – to raise concerns, and to listen to and act on them. This means ensuring the range of existing universal complaints and redress mechanisms, such as justice systems, consumer protection laws and anti-discrimination and human rights legislation, Disability Discrimination and Human Rights Commissioners, as well as Ombudsman's Offices are accessible. Promoting community inclusion of people with disability, through the NDIS and other measures, such as the National Disability Strategy, will help this.

I have also provided a copy of this correspondence including your statement to the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Christian Porter MP, for consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Turnbull', followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MALCOLM TURNBULL