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**DPO Victoria**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Missed opportunity to ensure Victorians with disabilities are free from violence abuse and neglect.**

The Victorian government's failure to adopt in full the vast majority of the recommendations made by the Disability Royal Commission ensures the continued mistreatment of Victorians with disability.

With under 20 of over 220 recommendations accepted nationally and at the state level, both state and federal governments have failed to show the vision and commitment needed to end the abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.

The refusal to address the segregation of people with disabilities, given the Commission's findings that link these settings with increased abuse, is particularly disappointing. People living in group homes will continue to be at particular risk.

Thousands of people with disabilities, their advocates and families, provided the Disability Royal Commission with a shocking picture of high levels of violence, abuse and neglect against them in numerous areas of daily life including education, employment and housing.

The Victorian government's failure to act quickly and decisively to increase protections against such violence, mirrored in its lacklustre response to the Commission's recommendations, is hard to explain or defend.

"The Disability Royal Commission saw thousands of detailed and compelling testimonies delivered over nearly four and a half years. A few months down the track and these expert perspectives are simply being overruled. There must be a way forward, we can't accept that this is the best Victoria can do."

"The current state of emergency for Victorian disability advocacy agencies, who are cutting staff and not even sure if they will still be operating in the next two years due to lack of funding, will impact directly on people with disability" said Julie Phillips, Chairperson Disability Advocacy. "The crumbling of disability advocacy infrastructure in Victoria is a sad reflection on the government's views on the value of the disability community, and their rights to be free of abuse."

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DPO Victoria - collective of disabled persons organisations

Disability Advocacy Victoria - peak body for independent disability advocacy agencies