



Hon Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Child Protection  
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers

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Bob Buckley  
Convenor  
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Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your email of 29 January 2019 addressed to the Premier, the Hon Daniel Andrews MP regarding the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Royal Commission). As the matters you raise fall within my portfolio responsibilities, your email has been referred to me for consideration and response.

The Victorian Government welcomes and support this Royal Commission – particularly as the sector is going through unprecedented change with the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Victoria is advocating for broad and deep engagement of people with disability as this will be crucial to the success of the inquiry. The Royal Commission will need to be conducted in an inclusive and accessible manner to encourage and support people with disability, their families and carers to share their stories. Victoria also supports a broad scope for the inquiry, including the range of services and settings that people with disability interact with.

I can assure you that Victoria has long supported a Royal Commission and will be active participants in the proceedings. Victoria has shown its commitment to strengthening safeguards for people with disability through the 2016 Parliamentary Inquiry into abuse in disability services. This inquiry highlighted the widespread nature of abuse and neglect of people with disability and demonstrated the need to build a culture of zero-tolerance of abuse, supported by a skilled and qualified workforce.

The Andrews Labor Government's response introduced new safeguards to protect people with disability, including the release of Victoria's Abuse Prevention Strategy, increased investment in advocacy services and the introduction of a new registration and accreditation scheme for the disability workforce.

It's critical that advocacy organisations such as A4 take part in the public consultation on the Royal Commission. The consultation has commenced via an online survey and I strongly encourage you to provide feedback on the terms of reference. The survey is open until Thursday, 28 March 2019 and can be accessed online at [www.engage.dss.gov.au](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au).

I thank you again for taking the time to write about this important matter.

Yours sincerely



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