



NATSILS

National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Legal Services

TRUE JUSTICE FOR OUR PEOPLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATSILS MEDIA RELEASE: NATSILS welcomes the extension of the Disability Royal Commission

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (**NATSILS**) welcomes the extension of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Since established in April 2019 after reports of harm to people living with disability - many of them First Nations - the Royal Commission has given voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and individuals who have experienced trauma, systemic oppression and multiple layers of discrimination. The Commission has heard many horrifying and confronting accounts of mistreatment against our people occurring within the criminal justice system.

“Aboriginal people with a disability are often invisible within the justice system and in too many instances we see our people being criminalised for their disabilities. There are inadequate supports in place for our people with disabilities, and diagnosis often occurs within the system. The extension is essential in order to implement measures to reduce the mistreatment, harm and marginalisation of our people; and to stop the ongoing entrenchment of our people within the criminal justice system.” - Priscilla Atkins, NATSILS Co-Chair

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability will be extended until September 29, 2023.

Your Story Disability Legal Support is a national legal service that offers free legal information and advice is available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, their families, carers, supporters and advocates to safely share their story with the Disability Royal Commission.

You can find their website here: yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au/Home

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