

Dear PANDDA Members,

### **Introduction:**

PANDDA recently released an initial response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC) final report in September 2023, which contained 222 recommendations. The Royal Commission aimed to address crucial issues affecting people with intellectual and/or developmental disability.

PANDDA extends its heartfelt appreciation to the courageous individuals and groups who bravely shared their experiences, contributing to the 222 recommendations aimed at improving the lives of people with an intellectual and/or developmental disability.

### **Priority Areas for Action:**

Following further review of the DRC recommendations, PANDDA Inc identified three priority areas for action.

1. Education and training for current and future health professionals
2. Changes to legal frameworks, healthcare standards, and policy
3. Reducing and eliminating restrictive practices

### **Education & training:**

In response to the DRC report, PANDDA endorses the recommendation that accreditation authorities urgently review and amend accreditation standards for all health professions, ensuring comprehensive coverage of intellectual and developmental disability health. We also support the recommendation to incorporate mandated intellectual and/or developmental disability content in health practitioner curricula and improved access to clinical placements in disability health services.

Additionally, PANDDA Inc supports the recommendation that state and territory governments fund, establish, and evaluate specialised health and mental health services for people with intellectual and/or developmental disability.

### **Changes to legal frameworks, healthcare standards, and policy**

PANDDA Inc stands in agreement with the DRC recommendation for the creation of a new Minister for Disability Inclusion in Australia. PANDDA Inc remains committed to the fundamental principle that people with intellectual and/or developmental disability have the right to make their own decisions.

PANDDA Inc strongly supports the introduction of 'disability health navigators' to assist individuals with IDD and complex health issues in navigating the health system. PANDDA Inc also endorse the recommendation for the Australian Government and state and territory governments to identify and publish a list of frequently needed adaptations and supports to ensure equitable access to healthcare for people with intellectual and/or developmental disability.

Furthermore, PANDDA Inc advocates for the amendment of the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to explicitly include the right to equitable access to health services for this people with intellectual and/or developmental disability.

### **Reducing and eliminating restrictive practices**

Additionally, PANDDA Inc encourages the Australian Government, state, and territory governments to set sector-specific targets and performance indicators aimed at reducing and eliminating restrictive practices. PANDDA Inc also supports the recommendation that each state and territory appoint a Senior Practitioner for the purpose of monitoring and reducing restrictive practices in disability service provision.

### **Commitment and Collaboration:**

PANDDA Inc is committed to working in partnership with the National Centre of Excellence for people with intellectual disability to ensure access to quality, timely, and comprehensive health care across the lifespan.

### **What Happens Next:**

As previously advised, the Australian Government has six months from September 2023 to consider the DRC recommendations. During this period, PANDDA Inc will remain committed to its mission, advocating and collaborating with nurses, organisations, government bodies, and people with lived experience to keep the voices and needs of people with intellectual and/or developmental disability at the forefront. PANDDA Inc resolves to be agents of positive change in the field of intellectual and/or developmental disability services and healthcare support.

### **Call to Action:**

As nurses working in the disability sector your knowledge and expertise are crucial to help make change. PANDDA Inc members are invited to express your interest in leading or joining a working group for each priority area listed above. Your feedback and engagement will contribute to strategies and actions that align with the DRC recommendations and improve the lives of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Your participation is a valuable addition to your resume, as well as being greatly appreciated by PANDDA Inc, which is managed by a volunteer committee.

To express your interest, please contact Sue Easton, PANDDA's Secretary on [sue.easton@pandda.net](mailto:sue.easton@pandda.net) if you are interested in being part of a working group and indicate the area you have expert knowledge or interest in.

Working groups will meet online via ZOOM or TEAMS. The structure, frequency and duration of meetings will be determined by each group to maximise attendance. Each working group will identify clear guidelines, strategies, and actions to achieve outcomes measured against the DRC recommendations in that priority area.

Completion of tasks by individuals will be based on strengths and capacity of members on a voluntary basis over the next 5 months. All completed work will be reviewed and approved by the PANDDA Executive committee.

If you wish to delve deeper into the details of the report, you can find more information on the Disability Royal Commission website.

[#DisabilityRC](#) [#DisabilityRoyalCommission](#) [#DRC](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support and shared commitment to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and for the improvement of nursing and healthcare.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomsic', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PANDDA President, Gail Tomsic