



Victorian Disability Advisory Council

Level 24, 50 Lonsdale Street
 GPO Box 2392V
 Melbourne Victoria 3000
 Telephone: 1300 880 043
 Telephone: (03) 9096 0019
 TTY: (03) 9639 2417
 email: vdac@dhhs.vic.gov.au

5 June 2015

Royal Commission into Family Violence
 PO Box 535
 Flinders Lane VIC 8009
 Sent via email to: enquiries@rcfv.com.au

To Whom it May Concern

Submission of the Victorian Disability Advisory Council

The Victorian Disability Advisory Council is a Group C level (2) statutory body, established by the Victorian *Disability Act 2006*. The Victorian Disability Advisory Council advises the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing in respect of

- whole of government policy directions and strategic planning and the implementation of initiatives for persons with a disability;
- the barriers to full inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability and the strategies for the removal of those barriers;
- any matter relating to disability referred to the Victorian Disability Advisory Council by the Minister.

The Victorian Disability Advisory Council writes in support of the Royal Commission into Family Violence. We emphasise the importance of considering the particular concerns of people with disabilities. Both women and men with disabilities are more likely to experience intimate partner violence. Women with disabilities have about double the risk of experiencing emotional, physical and sexual abuse from their intimate partners than women without disabilities. In addition, as identified by Women with Disabilities Victoria in their 'Voices Against Violence' project, women with disabilities often have difficulties reporting violence and receiving help. Key references for this issue are enclosed in this submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this important issue. If you have further questions, please contact the Victorian Disability Advisory Council secretariat on vdac@dhhs.vic.gov.au or (03) 9096 1684.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Tony Staley AO
 Chair
 Victorian Disability Advisory Council

References

1. VicHealth 2014, *Australians' attitudes to violence against women*. Findings from the 2013 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Melbourne, Australia.
2. Women with Disabilities Victoria. Voices Against Violence:
<http://www.wdv.org.au/voicesagainstviolence.html>