

# Developing Child Safe Institutions with People with Disability



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# People with Disability Australia (PWDA)



People with Disability Australia ([PWDA](#)) is a leading disability rights, advocacy and representative organization of and for all people with disability.

We are a national, cross-disability peak representative organization and member of Disabled Peoples Organizations Australia ([DPO Australia](#)).

We represent the interests of people with all kinds of disability.

**‘The relative risk ratio was 2.88. This means that children with a disability as a group have a 2.88 times higher risk of sexual violence than children who do not have a disability’.**

Llewellyn, Wayland and Hindmarsh, 2016, (P44)

## **The key questions that this project set out to answer were:**



- **What helps people with disability feel safe or comfortable in institutional settings?**
- **What makes people with disability feel unsafe or vulnerable in institutional settings?**
- **What changes do people with disability suggest, both within institutions and across society, to ensure the safety of all?**
- **What are the impacts of current practices in institutions?**

# Themes from the Findings



- Where children and adults with disability feel safe
- Experiences of Segregation
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Safeguarding Strategies
- Out of Home Care
- Access to Justice

“I think that, um,  
communication is incredibly  
important for keeping people  
safe” – Participant Q.

Experience of Segregation -  
Isolating, feeling degraded,  
angry, frustrated.

- “ they don’t ask the kids who they want there in the room with them” – Participant X.
- “Kids don’t always tell people” – Participant S.
- [Police]: “some try to put words in your mouth, which is wrong” – Participant N.

# NDIS and Child Safe Institutions



- Careful design of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) could assist in providing protections to children in institutions, such as in out of home care (OOHC).

## Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)



- Australia ratified the CRPD in 2006, and it contains articles focussed on children, violence, family and living situations which are of relevance to the Royal Commission's discussion of impacts on children with disability, especially in regards to out of home care.

## Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children



- That this family support framework should consider the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, families and **children with disability** and CALD communities

- **In order for institutions to be safe for children with disability, it must be clearly acknowledged that children with disability require particular consideration when child safe policies and procedures are being developed.**
- **Such consideration must include the voices of children with disability and those with lived experiences, and that those voices are heard are heard and respected.**

# References



- Cadwallader, J. (2016), 'PWDA Submission regarding Criminal Justice', *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*, Sydney.
- Cadwallader, J., Lea, M. (2016). 'PWDA Consultation paper: Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Out of Home Care.' *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*, Sydney
- Llewellyn, G., Wayland, S., Hindmarsh, G. (2016), 'Disability and child sexual abuse in institutional contexts', *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*, Sydney. (p.44).