

Writing Statements

How do I prepare a statement to give to the Royal Commission?

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Free legal help to navigate
the Royal Commission

Free advice line 1800 605 762 | Website knowmore.org.au

Registrations for Private Sessions with the Royal Commission closed on the 30th September 2016. If you did not register prior to the 30th September, it is still possible for you to engage with the Royal Commission by providing a written statement.

However statements must be sent to the Royal Commission by 15 November.

What is a written statement?

A written statement is a document that records your personal story.

Statements can either be handwritten or typed and can be sent to the Royal Commission by email or post.

Writing a statement may bring up difficult memories for you. It is important that you are supported throughout this process. You may like to have someone else like a support worker or counsellor write your statement with you.

Contact **knowmore** if you would like assistance or support with writing your statement.

What can I include in my statement?

Your statement is a chance for you to share your story with the Royal Commission.

Your statement can include:

- what happened to you; when it happened; where it happened; and if you told anyone;
- How the institution responded to your complaint;
- The impact the abuse has had on your life and health and whether you have received any support; and
- Whether you received any payment.

How do I structure my statement?

It is important that your statement is clear and set out in a way that the Royal Commission can understand your story.

The Royal Commission has released a guide setting out a number of questions for people giving information to the Royal Commission.

You can get a copy from the Royal Commission's website, which is at www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au, or you can contact **knowmore** to get a copy.

You don't have to use the guide to write your statement and you do not have to answer all the questions. You might find it easier to start your statement by thinking about the key things that you want the Royal Commission to know and writing them down.

Remembering specific dates and institutions might be hard, so if you are unsure about these, you can give an approximate dates and locations.

You can also start your statement by writing when events happened. You could then expand on each of the events that you have listed.

Important things to include

In preparing your statement, you may want to include the following:

- Your contact details, so that the Royal Commission can contact you for more information.

If you need any help, contact **knowmore**.

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Where do I send my written statement?

When you have finished your statement, you can send it to the Royal Commission by post or email.

The email address for the Royal Commission is statements@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au and the postal address is GPO Box 5283, Sydney NSW 2001.

Legal issues

Statements sent to the Royal Commission are confidential, but there is a possibility they could be used in other current or future legal matters that you are involved in. For example, it is possible they could be subpoenaed in criminal or compensation proceedings about your abuse.

It is therefore important to make sure that you do not say anything in your statement that is inconsistent with what you have said in other documents. The reason for this is that any inconsistencies can be used to discredit your evidence in other legal matters.

You can decrease the risk of inconsistencies by attaching to your statement any police or other statements about your abuse instead of writing about those details again.

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, please contact **knowmore**.

I'd rather tell my story over the phone – is this okay?

Yes. You can call the Royal Commission on 1800 099 340 or by emailing contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

Contact knowmore

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