

# YOUR STORY

DISABILITY LEGAL SUPPORT

## Sharing Your Story with the Disability Royal Commission



# YOUR STORY

## DISABILITY LEGAL SUPPORT

Free, independent legal support to share  
your story with the Disability Royal Commission

Sometimes people with a disability have been hurt, treated badly, refused help or taken advantage of. This is wrong and the Disability Royal Commission has been set up to look at this.

## Do you want to share your story with the Disability Royal Commission?

Your Story Disability Legal Support is here to support you.

We are a free legal service and we are available across Australia.

We can provide you with legal information, advice and support about sharing your story with the Disability Royal Commission.

This book has the stories of four people with disability. They all shared their story with the Disability Royal Commission in a different way.

Your Story was able to support them share their story.

- 1. Samir writes a submission .....Page 3**
- 2. Sarah has a private session .....Page 7**
- 3. Kim receives a notice to produce ..... Page 11**
- 4. Joe speaks at a community forum ..... Page 15**

Everyone's story is different.

We can give you legal support to share your story safely, in a way that works for you.

## Contact us for free support:



**1800 77 1800 (free call)**

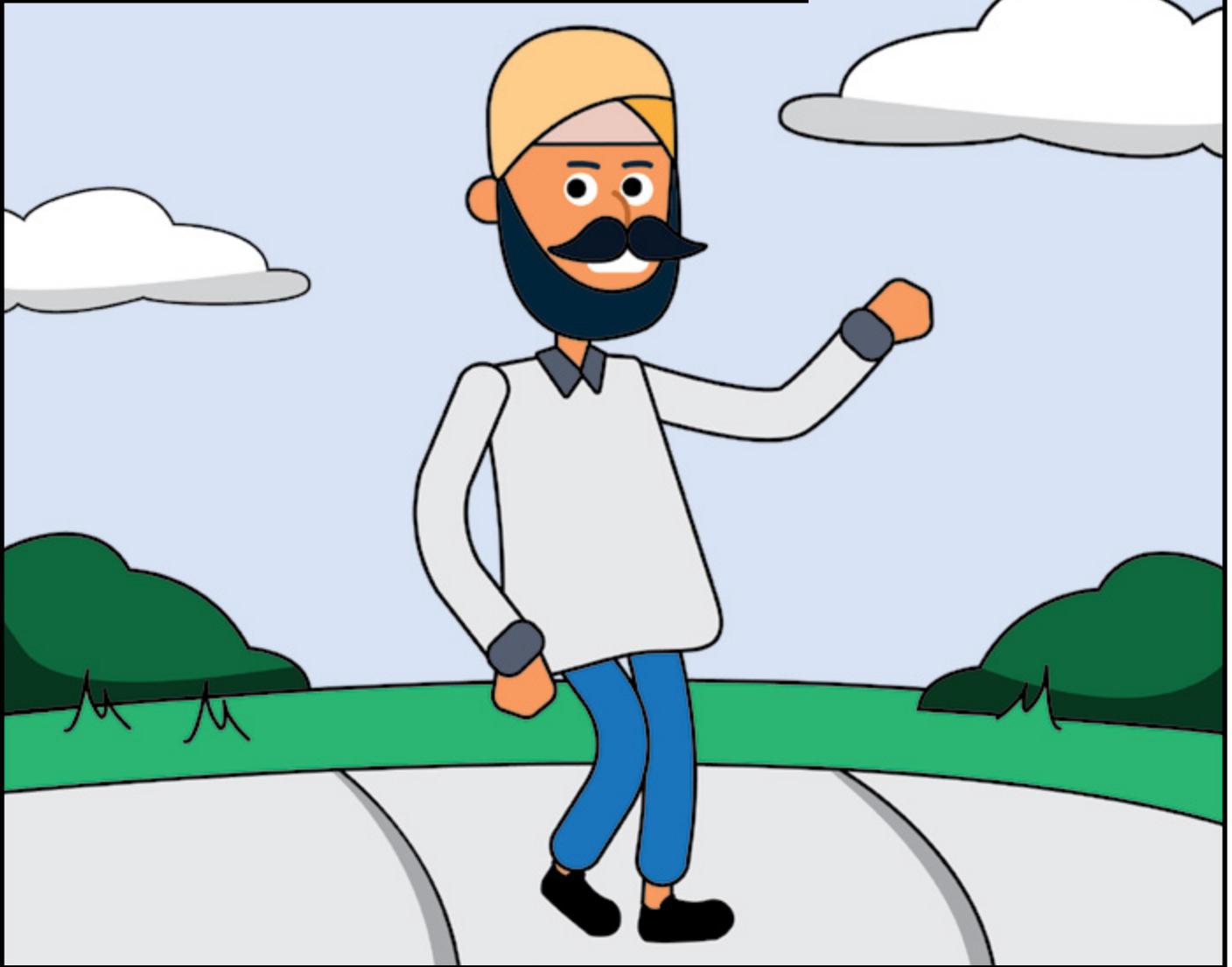


**[www.yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au](http://www.yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au)**

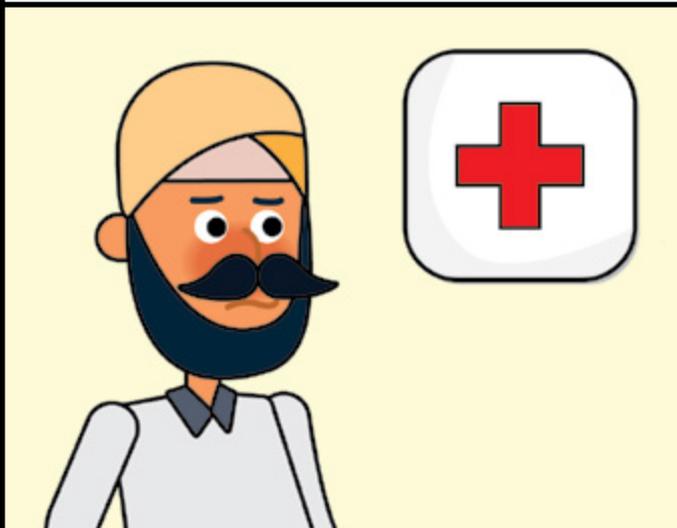
# THIS IS SAMIR'S STORY.

How did he share his story with the Disability Royal Commission? He made a submission.

1 Samir is a person with cerebral palsy.



2 Once, he visited the hospital because he was feeling very sick.



3 It was unsafe for Samir to move through the hospital.



4 Also, the nurse and doctor did not listen to him



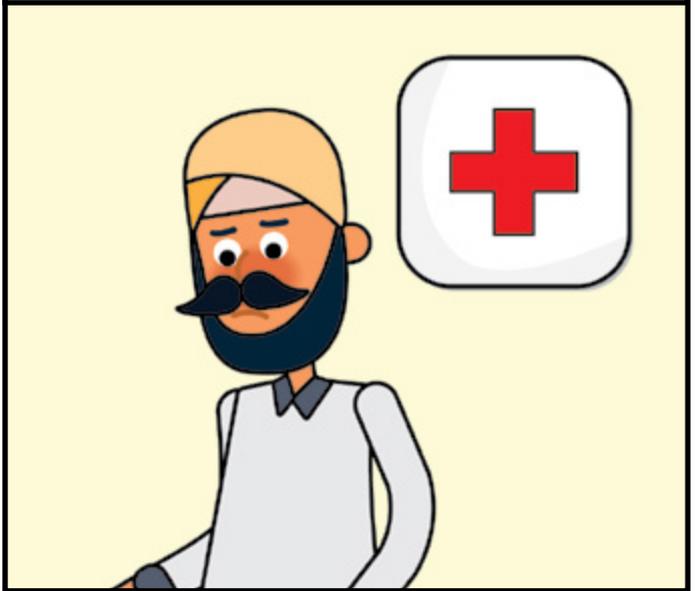
5 and they kept asking



6 if he had been drinking alcohol.



7 He felt let down and left.



8 He did not receive the treatment he needed.



9 Samir wants to share his story with the Disability Royal Commission.



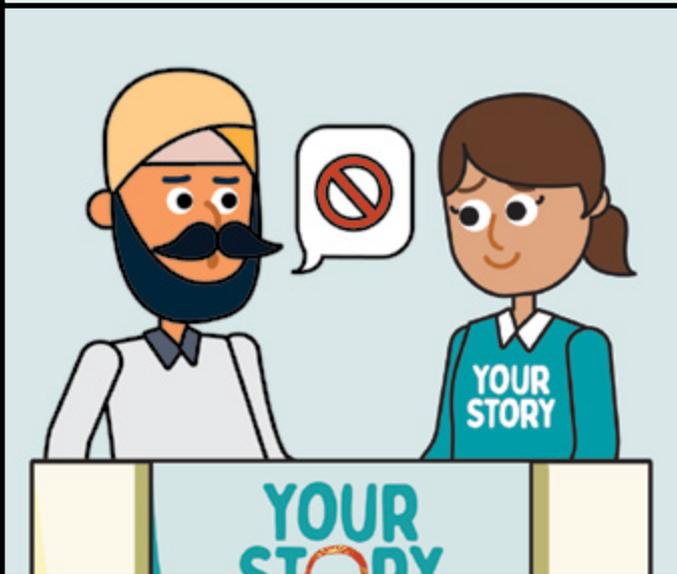
10 He contacted Your Story Disability Legal Support to find out how.



11 He told his lawyer he wanted the health system to change



12 but worried he might not get fair medical treatment in the future.



13 His lawyer explained the different ways to share his story.



14 One way is to make a submission to the Royal Commission.



A submission is a record of your story. It can be in writing, a picture, a video or any way you want to explain your story.

15 Samir and his lawyer spoke about keeping his submission private...



16

including all the facts he remembered...



17

and not sharing his story on social media.



18

Samir was happy he was able to share his story safely and hopes it will make a difference.



19

This is Samir's story. Everyone's story is different.



20

Contact Your Story Disability Legal Support about how to share your story safely.

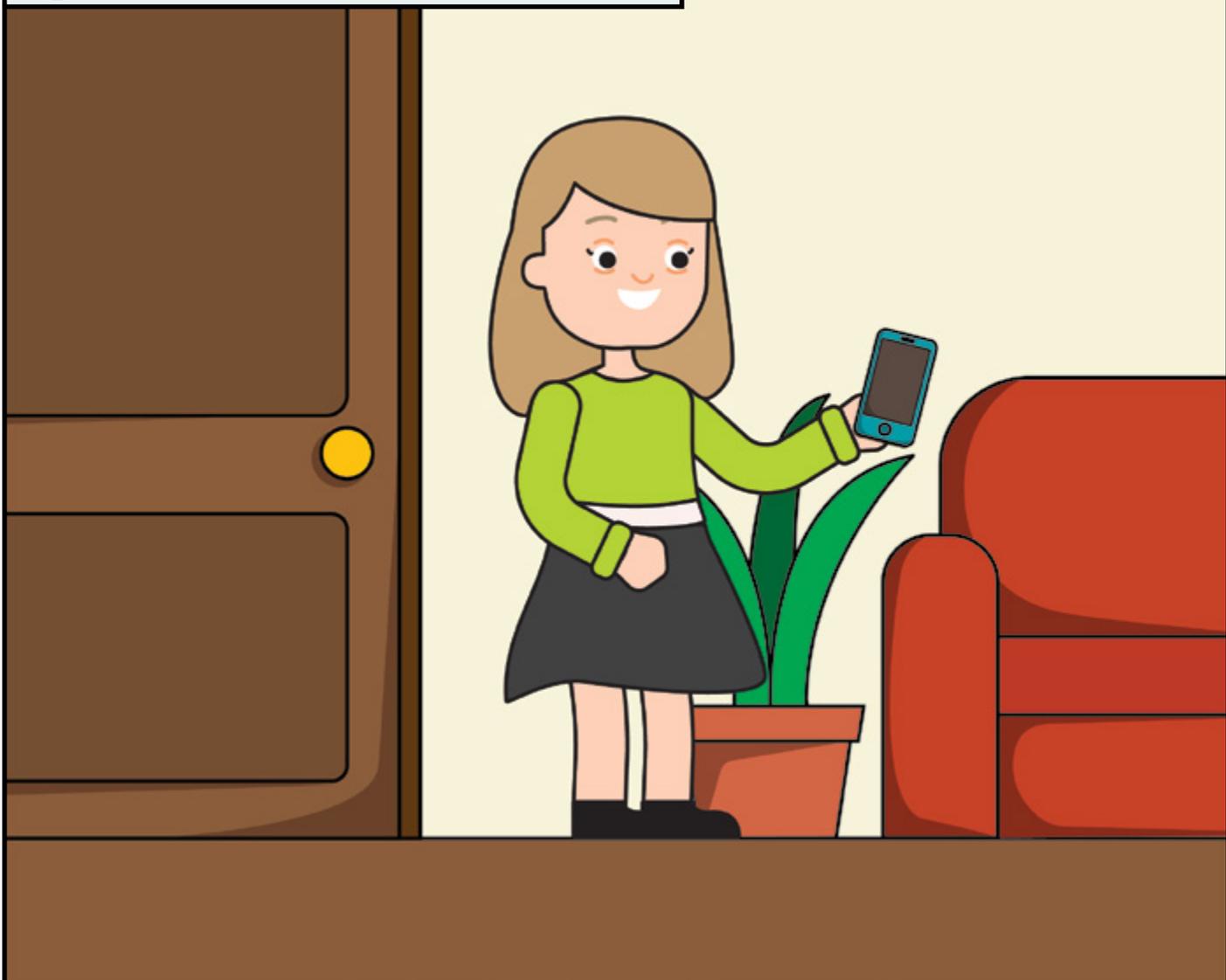
 1800 77 1800



# THIS IS SARAH'S STORY.

How did she share her story with the Disability Royal Commission? She spoke at a private session.

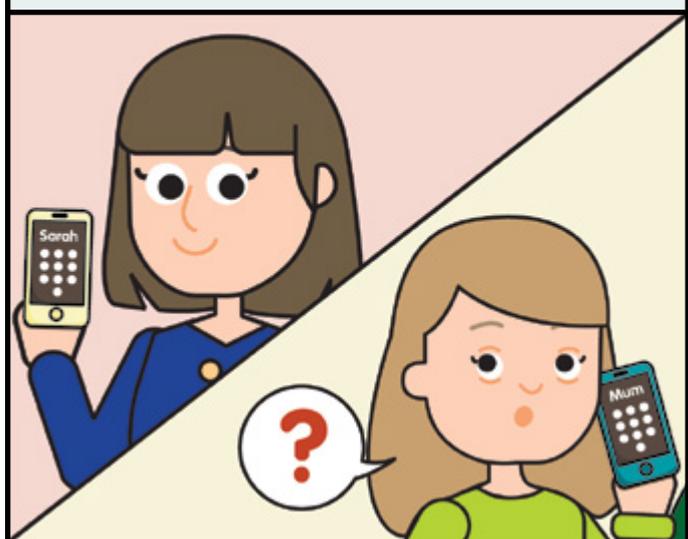
1 Sarah is a person with Down syndrome.



2 She does most things for herself.



3 But Sarah's mum supports her to make some decisions.



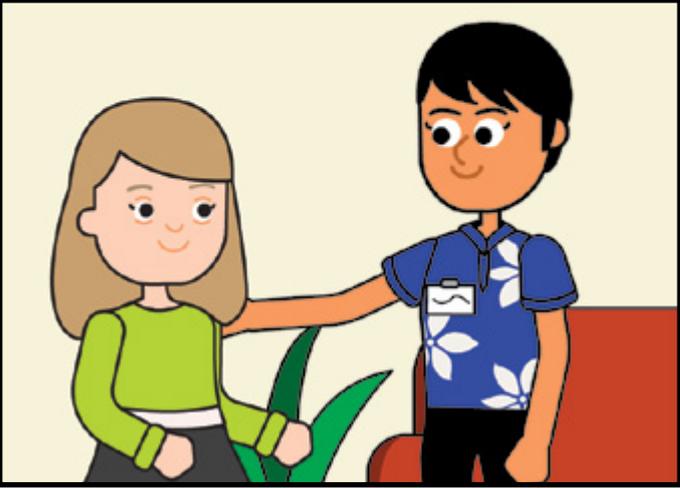
4

Sarah lives in a home with other people with disability.



5

There are workers who come to the house to support Sarah and the others.



6

Once, one of the workers locked her in a cupboard.



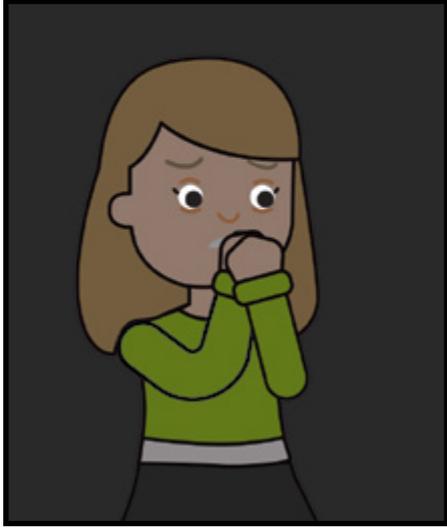
7

Sarah knows this was wrong.



8

But doesn't know what to do because there is nowhere else she can live.



9

Sarah's mum told her about the Disability Royal Commission.



10

Sarah and her mum contacted Your Story Disability Legal Support.



11 Sarah told her lawyer she wants to tell her story



12 but doesn't want to speak in public



13 because she is afraid she will get hurt again.



14 Sarah wants her mum with her when she shares her story.



15 Her lawyer told Sarah she could ask to have a private conversation with one of the Commissioners...



16 and her mum could come to support her.



17 No one else would know she shared her story.



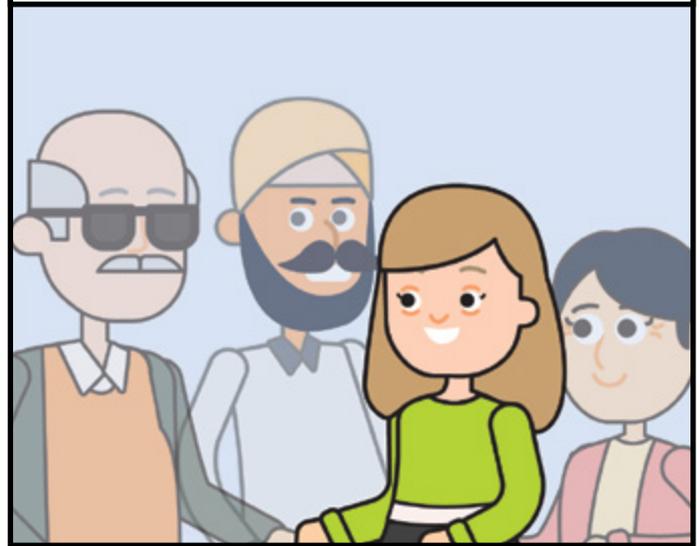
18 Sarah and her lawyer worked together so she felt ready to share her story.



19 Sarah felt proud that she was able to suggest ways to improve group homes for people with disability.



20 This is Sarah's story. Everyone's story is different.



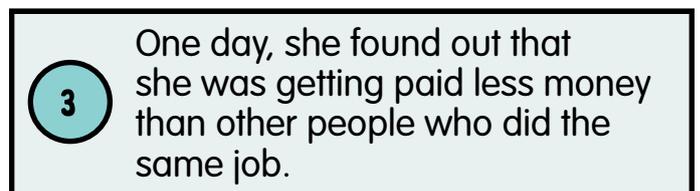
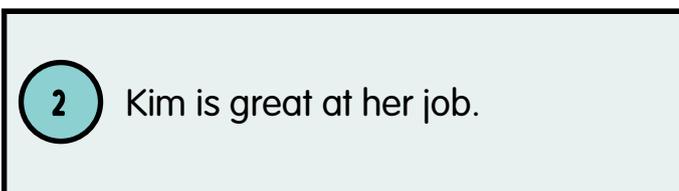
21 Contact Your Story Disability Legal Support about how to share your story safely.

 1800 77 1800

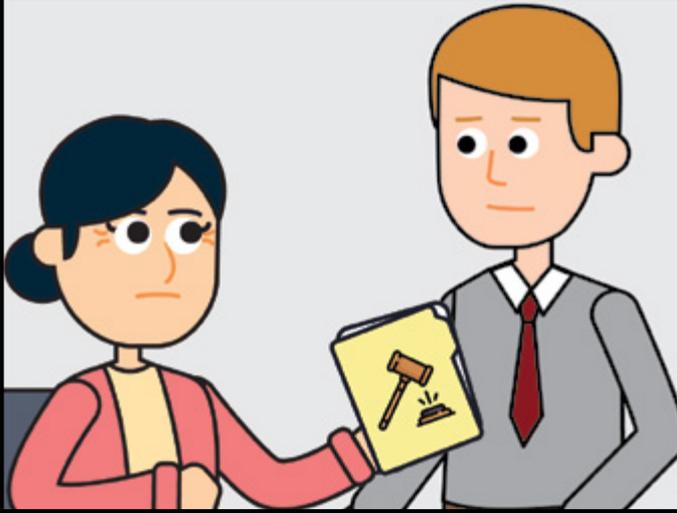


# THIS IS KIM'S STORY.

How did she share her story with the Disability Royal Commission? The Royal Commission used its powers so she could share her story.



4 She started a legal case against her work.



5 Her work paid her some money to apologise.



6 Kim had to sign a document which says she can't talk about this.



7 Kim wants to share her story with the Disability Royal Commission.



8 But doesn't know if she can.



9 She is also afraid she will get fired.



10

Kim contacted Your Story Disability Legal Support. She arranged to get advice over Skype.



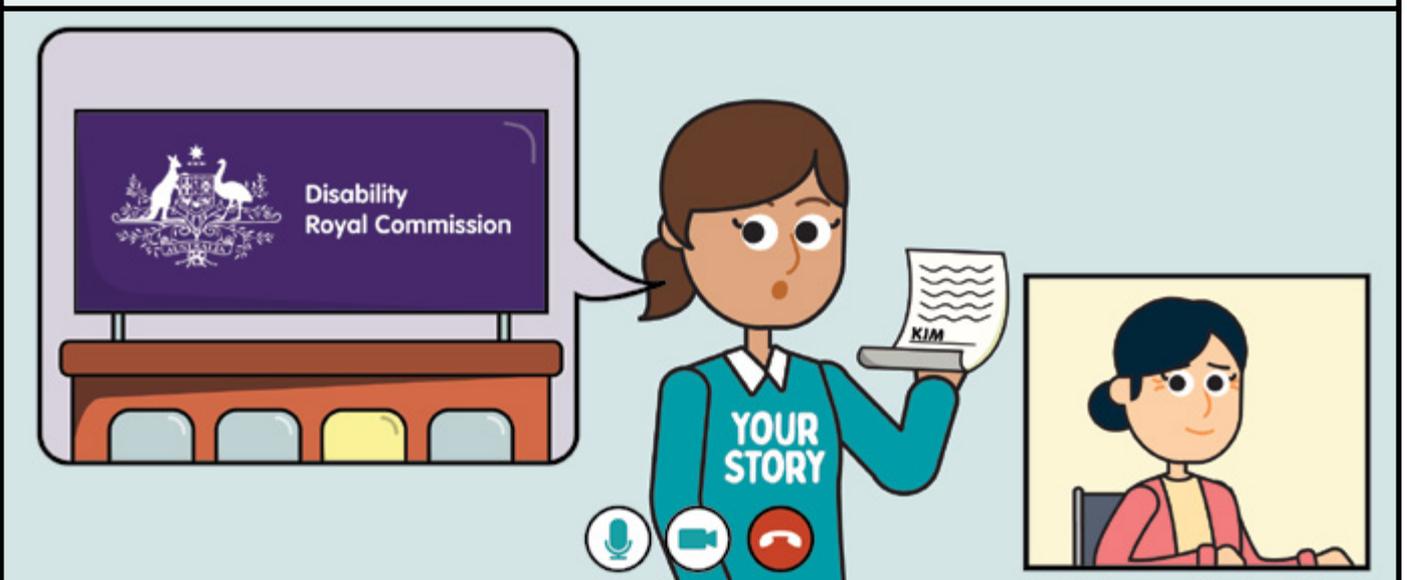
11

Her lawyer looked at the legal document Kim signed...



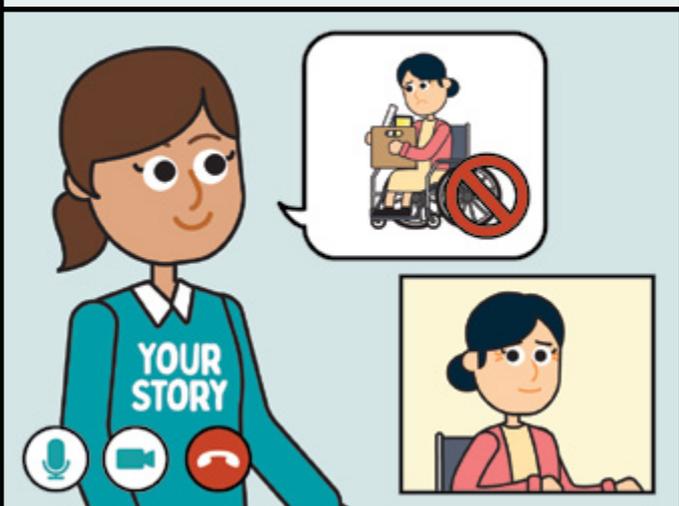
12

and told her she needed to ask the Royal Commission to protect her using its powers.



13

Then it would be against the law for her work to fire her...



14

or get her in trouble for sharing her story.



15 Kim asked her lawyer to contact the Royal Commission



16 and the Royal Commission gave Kim a legal document called a "Notice to Produce".



17 Kim was then protected when she shared her story.



18 This is Kim's story. Everyone's story is different.



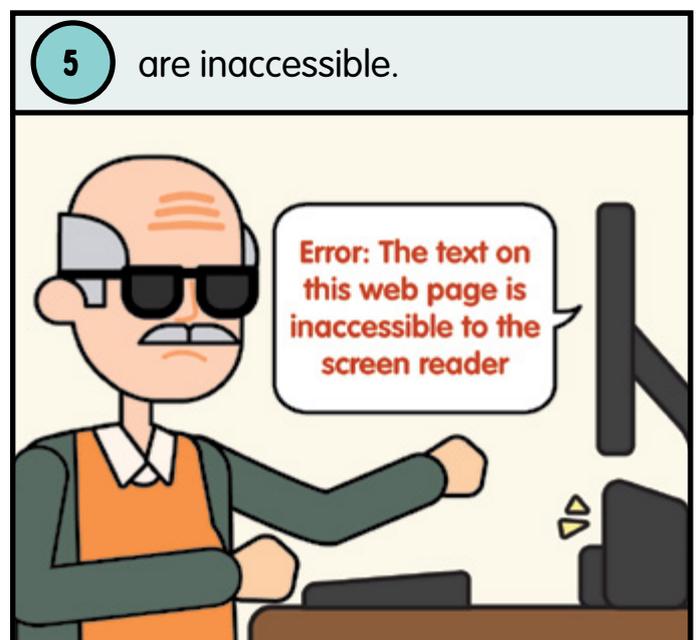
19 Contact Your Story Disability Legal Support about how to share your story safely.

 1800 77 1800

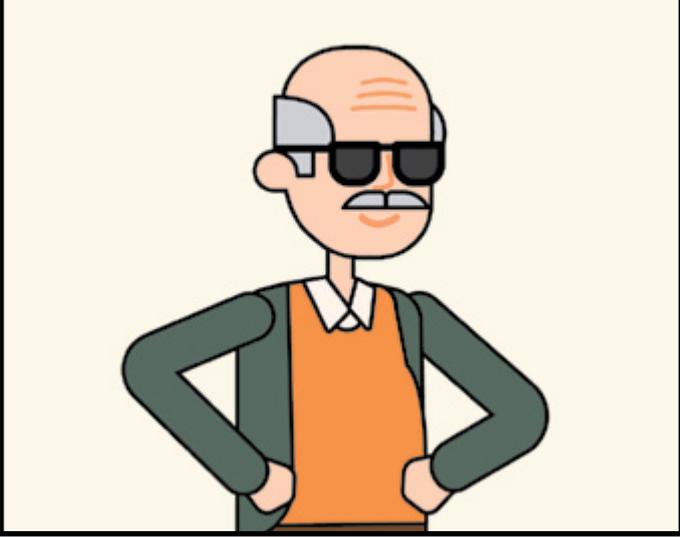


# THIS IS JOE'S STORY.

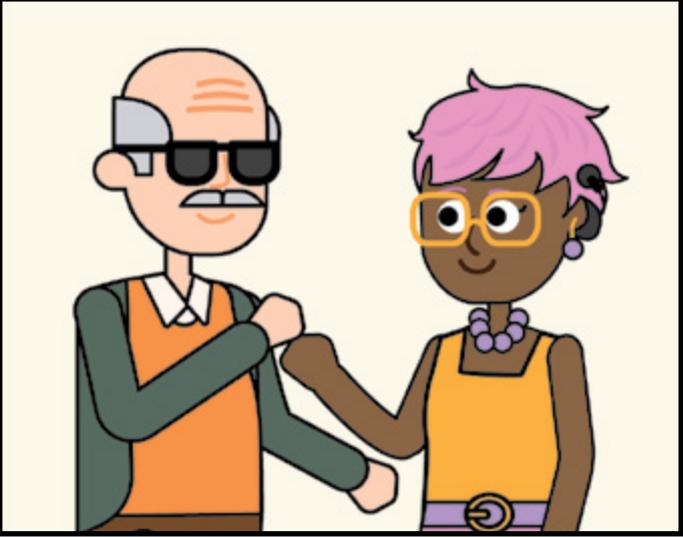
How did he share his story with the Disability Royal Commission? He spoke at a community forum.



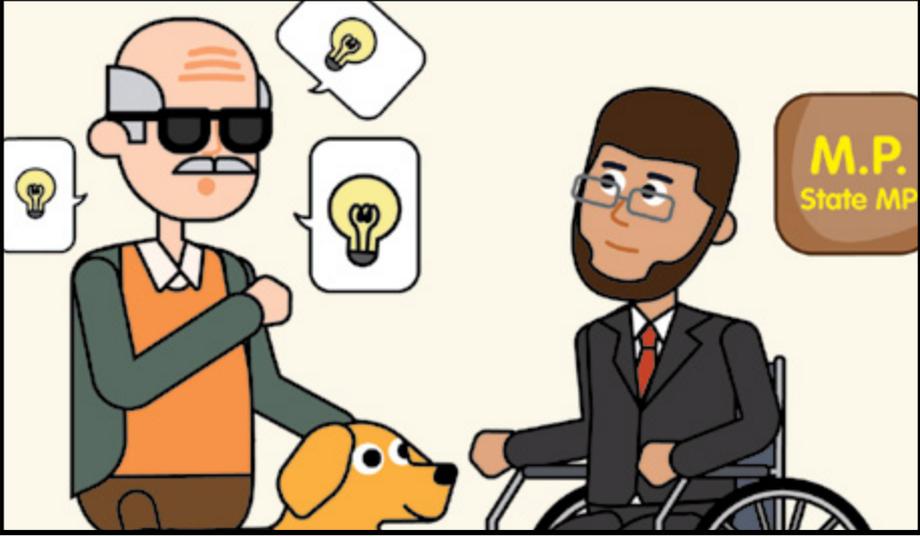
6 Joe wants to stand up for himself



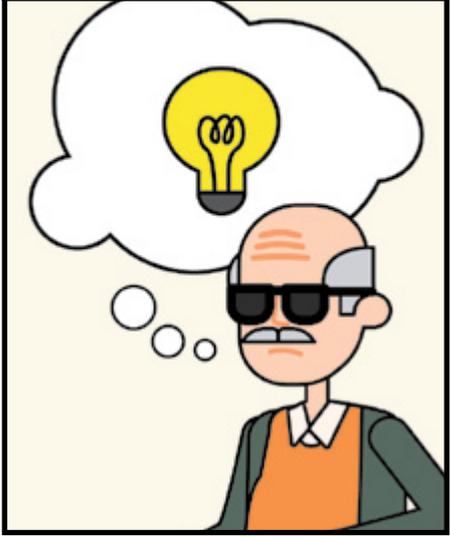
7 and his friends with disability too.



8 He has lots of ideas about how to improve life for people with disability. He has shared these with many people



9 but he feels things can still get better.



10 Joe wants to share his ideas with the Disability Royal Commission.



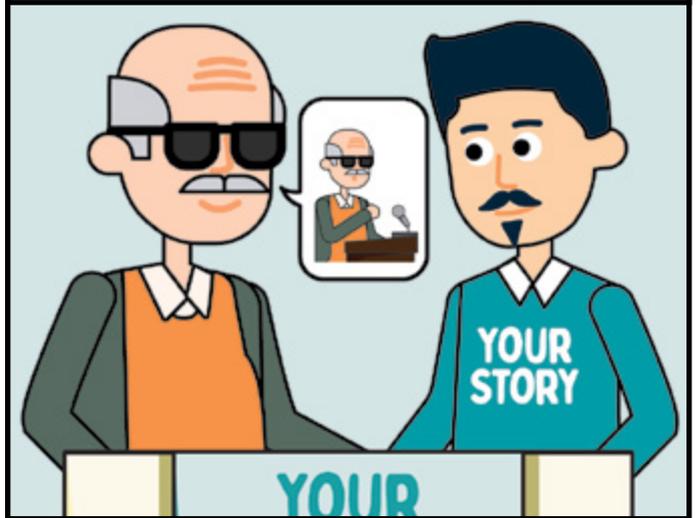
11 Joe contacted Your Story Disability Legal Support to find out how.



12 He told his lawyer he wants to speak in public



13 in his own words



14 and doesn't want to answer questions about what he will share.



15 His lawyer explained the different ways to share his story.



16 Joe and his lawyer spoke about registering to speak at a community forum...



17 and planning carefully what he wanted to say...



18

to avoid using names of people he was angry with.



19

When he spoke he stuck to his plan



20

and shared his ideas for change.



21

This is Joe's story. Everyone's story is different.



22

Contact Your Story Disability Legal Support about how to share your story safely.



1800 77 1800



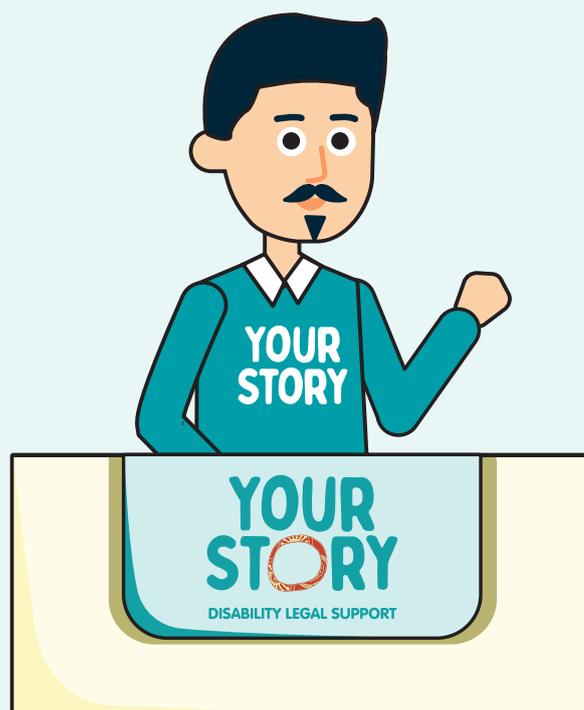
Your Story Disability Legal Support is a free national legal service delivered by National Legal Aid and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, with support and funding from the Commonwealth Government.

Some of the reasons you might want to contact Your Story Disability Legal Support include:

- You want to use the name of an organisation or person in your story
- You have signed a legal document that stops you sharing your story
- You are concerned about payback if you share your story
- You are worried about your safety and privacy if you share your story
- Your story talks about current or past court matters
- Your story talks about something you did, that you should not have done
- You are registered to speak at a community forum
- You want support to get ready for a private session with the Disability Royal Commission.

**Disclaimer:**

**This information is intended as a general guide. It should not be relied on as legal advice and we recommend that you talk to a lawyer about your particular situation.**



# YOUR STORY

DISABILITY LEGAL SUPPORT

Free, independent legal support to share your story with the Disability Royal Commission

Contact us for free support:



1800 77 1800 (free call)



[www.yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au](http://www.yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au)



YOUR STORY  
DISABILITY LEGAL SUPPORT

ISBN 978-0-6485746-3-7