# **Assistive Technology for All: Share your stories and experiences with the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety**

# **About the Royal Commission**

* A Royal Commission is the highest form of public inquiry that exists under Australian law. Its main functions are to investigate an issue, produce a report and make recommendations to government about what needs to change.
* The Royal Commission into Aged Care was established in 2018 in response to growing public concern about the quality of aged care services in Australia.
* A Royal Commission’s investigations are informed by the views and experiences of the Australian public, and everyone’s voice counts!

# **Assistive Technology for All: Our submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care**

* Assistive Technology for All (ATFA) is an alliance of organisations and consumer advocates spanning the ageing and disability sectors. Together, we are advocating for equitable access to assistive technology for people with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS. Many of these people are over the age of 65 and are now forced to rely on the aged care system for support.
* Stories and personal accounts that are provided to the Royal Commission are called “submissions”. ATFA has recently lodged a [submission](https://www.cota.org.au/information/resources/submission/afta-aged-care-royal-commission-submission/) with the Royal Commission into Aged Care. The submission includes a range of recommendations that aim to improve access to assistive technology for people with disability who are over 65.
* If you are concerned about the lack of access to assistive technology or other vital services and supports for older people with disability, you might like to consider lodging your own submission with the Royal Commission.

# **Making a submission to the Royal Commission**

* The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety will be accepting submissions until the end of April 2020, so there is still time to have your say!
* There is no right or wrong way to tell your story. You can:

1. Set out your submission as a Standard Letter.
2. Set out your submission as a list of numbered or bulleted points.
3. Complete your submission through the online or downloadable form on the Royal Commission website.
4. Phone the Royal Commission information line on 1800 960 711 and provide your story verbally. The person you speak with can help you put it into writing, or organise an interpreter service.

# **Things to think about when writing your submission**

It may be useful to think about the following questions when you sit down to write your submission:

* What tasks do you require support with because of your disability?
* What sort of support do you need to help you complete these tasks e.g. aids, equipment and assistive technology?
* Has the aged care system been able to meet all of your disability-related support needs? If not…
* In what ways do you think the aged care system is currently failing people with disability?
* What impact has this had on you personally, and on others around you.
* What do you think your life would look like if you had all of the necessary supports in place? What would you be doing that you aren’t able to do now?
* What needs to change so you have access to the specialist disability supports you need into the future?

# **Contacting the Royal Commission**

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