**Summary: BCA Inform – 8 November:**

The topic of November’s BCA Inform was an update on the Disability Royal Commission (DRC). BCA staff and members were joined by Leona Berrie, Director – Intake, Counselling and Support Services, from the DRC.

Leona provided some background on the DRC and a summary of some of the work undertaken by the commission. Leona proudly shared that as of 8 November 2022, the DRC have:

* held 29 Public Hearings,
* held over 1,400 Private sessions,
* received over 5,800 submissions,
* responded to over 15,900 phone inquiries,
* engaged in intense community consultation throughout Australia
* published 15 Issues Papers, 15 Research Reports and 6 Progress Reports.

Leona spoke about the various ways individuals can share their story with the commission including public hearings, community engagement, making a submission or responding to issues papers.

Leona also highlighted the DRC’s commitment to ensure that anyone who wants to is able to make a submission in the manner and format that best meets their needs.

During the session, BCA members shared their thoughts and suggestions on issues they would like to see covered in BCA’s final submission to the DRC. Some of these areas included:

* Australian Disability Enterprises (sheltered workshops)
* Improvements to the Disability Discrimination Act
* Digital access
* Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic

Members also shared concerns about the lack of resources to provide accessibility in tertiary education and how this means that students often become a default own accessibility consultant for the people around them, resulting in significant impacts to their studies. Concerns were also raised by members around holding the Australian Government to account in implementing recommendations after the conclusion of the DRC.

If you weren’t able to attend our November BCA Inform but would like to listen to the conversation, a recording is now available on BCA’s website.