



Jane Wardlaw  
Disability Advocate and  
Consultant

15 February 2019

## Media Release

### A ROYAL COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND NEGLECT WOULD REVEAL SIGNIFICANT SYSTEM FAILURES AGAINST TASMANIANS WITH DISABILITY

Tasmanian's living with disability, their families and significant others support the motion to establish a Royal Commission Inquiry into Violence, Abuse and Neglect Against People Living with Disability and calls on federal parliament to support an inquiry.

Jane Wardlaw, Disability Advocate said, 'A Royal Commission inquiry would reveal the depth and breadth of the trauma and neglect, even unnecessary death, some Tasmanians living with disability have endured.'

'For too long, violence, abuse and neglect has been prevalent against many people living with disability,'

'Largely, people with disability have been so disempowered and not given a voice to speak out about the abuse endured.', said Jane Wardlaw, Disability Advocate.

'In Tasmania, our very own Disability Services Act fails independent umpiring and investigation into reported incidents of violence, abuse and neglect against people living with disability at the state level.', said Jane Wardlaw, Disability Advocate.

Yesterday in the Senate, Senator Jordan Steele-John successfully moved a motion to establish a royal commission to inquire into the violence, abuse and neglect of people with disability. It is yet to be voted on in the house of representatives.



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‘The NDIS Commissioner is expected to be established in Tasmania later this year, yet in the six months operating in NSW and VIC from 1 July 2018 – September 2018, over 184 incidents of abuse and neglect were reported to the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.’, said Jane Wardlaw, Disability Advocate.

‘In the same three months, the Commission released data that shows it received 62 reports of expected and unexpected deaths, 91 reports of injuries and 34 complaints against individual staff or service providers and 75 cases of unauthorized restrictive practices – in those states alone.’, said Jane Wardlaw,

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**Jane Wardlaw is available for comment from 8:30am – 10:30am and 1pm – 6pm  
Friday 15 February 2019**

**Contact: 0409 961 844**

Hansard motion by Senator Jordan Steele-John:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\\_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/0a120128-d884-4edf-93bf-6d01e8b5d648/&sid=0000](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/0a120128-d884-4edf-93bf-6d01e8b5d648/&sid=0000)



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