



December 2018

Legal financial assistance for people engaging with the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

Am I eligible for legal financial assistance?

If you have been:

- called, or granted leave to appear, as a witness at a hearing of the Royal Commission, or
- requested to attend or attending an interview of the Royal Commission, or
- requested to provide a written statement that will be used as evidence of the Royal Commission, and/or
- complying with a notice to produced issued by the Royal Commission

You may be eligible for assistance with legal representation and disbursements costs.

If you have been called in your personal capacity you will be eligible for legal financial assistance.

If your organisation has been called, you may be eligible for legal financial assistance. The organisation will be subject to an assessment of whether they can meet the cost of its legal representation without incurring serious financial difficulty.

What financial information does the organisation need to provide?

The organisation must provide full details of the applicant's financial circumstances, including annual income from all sources, total value of assets and total balance of savings/shares. Supporting documentation, such as recent bank statements, latest tax assessments, and/or annual financial statements should be attached to the application. All information provided to the department is treated in confidence.

What costs are covered?

The department will pay for reasonable legal representation and disbursement costs that you incur as a witness for the Royal Commission. These could include your solicitor's costs (e.g. attendance or preparation of documents) and disbursements (e.g. solicitor's travel, photocopying).

The [Assessment of Costs](#) provides detailed information of what is payable and at what rate.

Witness expenses

Some expenses attending a hearing of the Royal Commission may be covered under witness expense arrangements by the Office of the Royal Commission.

For further information, visit www.agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au

Further information

For further information, please refer to the [Commonwealth Guidelines for Legal Financial Assistance 2012](#) and the [Addendum for the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#)

Or, contact the Financial Assistance Section on 02 6141 4770 or 1800 117 995 (between 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday to Friday) or email finass@ag.gov