

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE AGEING AND
DISABILITY COMMISSIONER BILL 2019**

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The bill includes significant improvements on that creating the Commissioner for Mental Health.

All improvements and functions can be frustrated by the appointed Commissioner, again creating the appearance of advanced legislation but the reality falling far short due to political appointments protecting government.

Clause 12 (a) should specify that the Commission will maintain current awareness of media as part of its "own initiative." This is to avoid the ludicrous problem where police killings and other violence against adults disabled by mental illness could be completely ignored by the Commissioner despite being regularly in the media.

Clause 12 (e) should have a definition of systemic issues: "systemic" appears to have been used as a weasel word by the Commissioner for Mental Health to do nothing about some issues, eg police violence against people with mental illness, and failure to treat people with mental illness.

Part 5 should require the Commissioner to publish at least annual reports on censorship of its social media sites, including the deletion of posts and the blocking of those who post. Reports should include the social media identity of the person affected, a summary of what was deleted, and a summary of the reasons for deleting and blocking. This is to let the public have a true picture of the public face presented by the Commissioner, and the extent of public complaints against it.

There should be a simple process for complaining about the Commissioner, and the Commissioner should publish at least annual reports on complaints made about the Commissioner.

The act should have a review at two years. That review should not be done by any department administering the Commission. That review should publish all submissions; where it cannot publish a submission, it should publish the author of the submission, the nature of the submission, and the reasons for not making it public.

If the Commissioner is entitled to refuse a complaint because it happened before a commencement date, that limitation should be clearly published in the act.