

The Federal Government has announced a Senate Inquiry into: “Barriers to consistent, timely and best practice assessment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and support services for people with ADHD” at a national level.



Firstly, why do we have inquiries? The results of these inquiries help Senators to shape laws and to make better-informed decisions about matters they debate in the Senate.



What's happened: The Australian Senate has backed a proposal to establish a Senate Inquiry into the care and support provided to those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The inquiry will focus on the effectiveness of current treatment options and the availability of support services for those with ADHD.



Where we are up to: In this context, an Inquiry is a formal investigation that devotes time and resources to look into a specific policy or issue. The results of these inquiries help senators make better-informed decisions, like shaping legislation and laws. Part of the 'investigating' stage includes inviting members of the community (you!) to write submissions that share their views and experiences.



The next steps: Following this stage, the committee may then invite people who have made a written submission to appear at a hearing, where they can present information and answer questions.



Conclusion: Following this, we reach the conclusion of an inquiry, in which the relevant committee (in this case, it will be the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs) takes into account the substance of the submissions and hearings and prepares a report. This report often includes recommendations on how to fix a specific policy of issue that was being investigated.

Senate Inquiry into ADHD

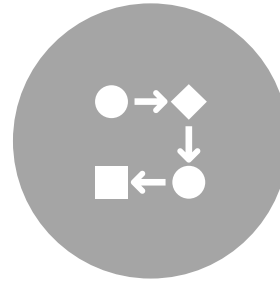
Due 9th June

A written submission can be broken into two parts:

- Share any and every experience that you would like the committee* to know **about in relation** to your **experience of ADHD**.
- Listing **what** you would like **changed** / making **recommendations**.



How should I structure my submission?
There is no prescribed format for a written submission – you can follow whatever structure feels easiest or most natural to you.



How long should my submission be? Your submission may be as short or as long as you like. If it's longer than a few pages, it can be helpful to include a brief summary at the beginning.



What should my submission contain? Your submission should contain facts, opinions, experiences, arguments and/or recommendations in the context of your ADHD experience or expertise.



The most important thing is that your submission clearly tells your story and conveys the reason that you're making a submission in the first place. It also has to be relevant to the scope of the inquiry, otherwise it could be rejected. One way to help inform what to write in your submission is through the lens of the inquiry's twelve (12) [terms of reference](#) points. These determine the scope/limitations of what the committee will inquire into – they're like the guiding parameters of the investigation. You definitely don't need to address the terms of reference in your submission directly or explicitly – though you can if you want to – but it can be a helpful frame through which to think.

#1 Terms of Reference (a-d) – You may wish to use this as a guide and make bullet points of Problems and Solutions

(a) adequacy of access to ADHD diagnosis

(b) adequacy of access to supports after an ADHD assessment

(c) the availability, training and attitudes of treating practitioners, including workforce development options for increasing access to ADHD assessment and support services

(d) impact of gender bias in ADHD assessment, support services and research

#2 Terms of Reference (e-h) – You may wish to use this as a guide and make bullet points of Problems and Solutions

(e) access to and cost of ADHD medication, including Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme coverage and options to improve access to ADHD medications

(f) the role of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in supporting people with ADHD, with particular emphasis on the scheme's responsibility to recognise ADHD as a primary disability

(g) the adequacy of, and interaction between, Commonwealth, state and local government services to meet the needs of people with ADHD at all life stages

(h) the adequacy of Commonwealth funding allocated to ADHD research

#3 Terms of Reference (i-l) – You may wish to use this as a guide and make bullet points of Problems and Solutions

(i) the social and economic cost of failing to provide adequate and appropriate ADHD services

(j) the viability of recommendations from the Australian ADHD Professionals Association's Australian evidence-based clinical practice guideline for ADHD

(k) international best practice for ADHD diagnosis, support services, practitioner education and cost

(l) any other related matters

Terms of Reference

- (a) adequacy of access to ADHD diagnosis
- (b) adequacy of access to supports after an ADHD assessment
- (c) the availability, training and attitudes of treating practitioners, including workforce development options for increasing access to ADHD assessment and support services
- (d) impact of gender bias in ADHD assessment, support services and research
- (e) access to and cost of ADHD medication, including Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme coverage and options to improve access to ADHD medications
- (f) the role of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in supporting people with ADHD, with particular emphasis on the scheme's responsibility to recognise ADHD as a primary disability
- (g) the adequacy of, and interaction between, Commonwealth, state and local government services to meet the needs of people with ADHD at all life stages
- (h) the adequacy of Commonwealth funding allocated to ADHD research
- (i) the social and economic cost of failing to provide adequate and appropriate ADHD services
- (j) the viability of recommendations from the Australian ADHD Professionals Association's Australian evidence-based clinical practice guideline for ADHD
- (k) international best practice for ADHD diagnosis, support services, practitioner education and cost
- (l) any other related matters

How do I lodge my Submission?

Let's lodge our submissions Before the 09 June 2023 deadline.

Typed submissions:

- You can upload submissions directly on the Inquiry Page Parliament of Australia Website

OR

- Email your submissions to: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Non-Typed Submissions:

If you're not able to provide a submission as a typed document, the committee can take it in other forms including audio recording, video recording and hand-written.

If you would like to make a non-written submission or you require assistance to enable you to participate in the inquiry, please contact the Committee Secretariat by calling (02) 6277 3515 or emailing community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au.

If you are deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired and would like to make a submission, please call the Parliament House Telecommunications Relay Services (TTY) service on (02) 6277 7799.