

Get involved in the  
National Human Rights Consultation

# Human rights and people with intellectual disability



By Intellectual Disability Rights Service Inc

With funding assistance from the Australian Human Rights Commission

## What are human rights?

Human rights promise everyone a good life

Human rights are about giving everyone a fair go

People have human rights because they are human

Everyone has the same rights

Everyone in the world has human rights



Everyone in Australia has human rights



All people with intellectual disability have human rights



**Here are some human rights that people with intellectual disability have**

I have the right to be equal

- Be treated as equal and not be discriminated against
- Be heard and respected as a person
- Be understood and accepted for who I am



- Have a fair trial if I go to court
- Be treated with respect by
  - judges,
  - police,
  - court workers and
  - lawyers



Here are some human rights that people with intellectual disability have

I have the right to be part of the community

- Choose where to live and be part of the community if I want



- Go to school and get an education



- Work and choose what work to do



- Have a girlfriend or boyfriend



- Have children



- Have friends and spend time with who I want

**Here are some human rights that people with intellectual disability have**

I have the right to be treated well

- Be free and safe and not be treated badly
- Help from police, ambulance and firefighters when I need it



- Have a good life
- Have enough food to eat



- Have a place to live



- Have good healthcare



**Here are some human rights that people with intellectual disability have**

I have the right to choose how I live my life

- Make my own choices
- Be asked about decisions that affect me



- Have information I understand to help me make decisions
- Have privacy



- Have help from services if I need



- Complain if I don't have a good service



## Protection of human rights in Australia

No one should take any of your human rights away from you



The Australian Government has to do its best to make sure every Australian has their human rights



What governments should do:

- Make laws about human rights



- Not do things that are against human rights
- Stop discrimination



- Tell people about their rights



- Train everyone to protect human rights



## Current human rights protection

There are some laws in New South Wales about human rights for people with intellectual disability. For example:

- Disability discrimination laws



- Disability Service Standards



- Criminal laws about going to court and having a support person to help you



But, in Australia there is no one big human rights law about every human right.

Not all of our human rights are protected.

Other countries have one big human rights law. For example:

- Canada,
- United Kingdom, and
- New Zealand

The United Nations have international human rights laws that countries have agreed to adopt.



Some of these are about human rights for everyone.

Others are for groups of people, such as:

- Women



- Children



- People with disability



In 2007, the United Nations passed a new law called the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



This says that people with disability have the same rights as everyone else.

People with disability helped to write the United Nations Disability Law.

It took a few years to write.

The Australian Government has agreed to follow the United Nations Disability Law.

But it is not written in Australia's laws yet.

Unfortunately, this means that the Australian Government doesn't have to do what the United Nations Disability Law says.

## **Because we don't have one big human rights law**

Because we don't have one big human rights law, the Australian Government can:

- Make laws that take away our human rights.
- Decide not to make laws about human rights.
- Ignore people's human rights and get away with it.

## **The National Human Rights Consultation**

The *Government* wants to hear from everyone about human rights.

This is called the National Human Rights Consultation.

The *Government* is going to decide if it should introduce one big human rights law.



**Tell the Government what you think about human rights**



The Australian Government is asking everyone what they think about human rights.

They want to know what you think are the most important human rights

They want to know if you think everyone is treated fairly and equally

They want to know what changes you think are needed to better protect human rights

You can write to the Government.



IDRS has a form you can fill out.



You can just tick some boxes or you can tell a story about human rights



Talk about human rights in your life

Say how things could be fixed

If you need more help, IDRS can help you.

Ring us on 02 9318 0144 or 1800 666 611 if you have any questions.

