

A Report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



Who made this report?



This report was written by people with disabilities and their support and advocacy organisations.

What is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?



All countries



should make sure that people with disabilities are treated equally.

How far have the rights of people with disabilities come in the last 30 years in Australia?



There has been some progress in the rights of people with disabilities but things could be a lot better.

How are things for people with disabilities in Australia now?



The government must fund advocacy and support organisations that support people with disabilities



especially for Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands.



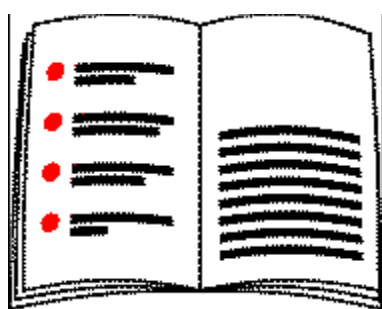


Australia needs a Human Rights Act that protects the rights of people with disabilities that are set out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability.

Women with Disabilities



Australia needs better laws to protect the rights of women with disabilities.



The government must make a study of the situation of women with a disability to help improve their lives.

Children with Disabilities



Australia needs a Children's Commissioner to look after the rights of children with a disability



especially aboriginal children and children from the Torres Strait Islands.



Australia must put into its laws, the rights set out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability



Australia must make a special effort to care for people from other countries who do not speak English.



and Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands.

Getting the community to know more about disability



The community needs to learn more about people with disabilities in the areas of



education



jobs



health

Accessibility

The government must make better efforts to make our community more accessible to people with disabilities in



transport



buildings



communications

Protection of People with Disabilities during Emergencies

The government must make sure that people with disabilities are looked after during emergencies such as



bushfires



floods

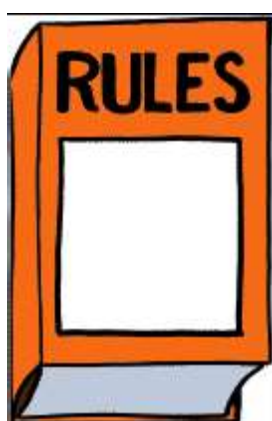


people with disabilities may have trouble escaping danger during emergencies.

Does the law treat people with disabilities differently?



Australian laws are not strong enough to protect the rights of people with disabilities



Some people with disabilities need someone else to speak up for them and the government should make sure that this is done properly.



Disabled people have the same right to make their own decisions about important things as everyone else



Disabled people should have the proper support they need when making decisions.

The Justice System



People with disabilities do not get the right support when they are with the police



or when they go to court



or if they are sent to jail

The Australian government needs to improve the legal system so that people with disabilities are treated properly.



Disabled people should have the same rights to go to court, take other people to court or take part in what happens in courts as anyone else.



Australia should have special training for courts, police and prison staff.

Being free and feeling safe



In Australia people with disabilities are not as free and safe as they should be.



The Guardianship Laws can take freedoms away from people with disabilities rather than giving them more freedom.



The government must make laws that keep people with disabilities safe and free.

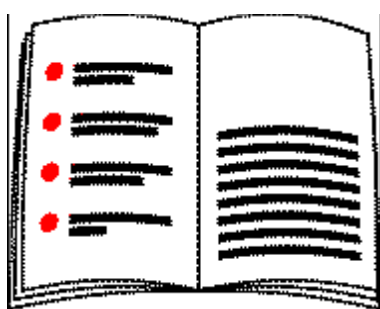


People with disabilities in prison must be given proper support and conditions.

Freedom from Abuse and Neglect



People with disabilities are more likely to be abused or neglected than non-disabled people.



The government should make a report on the abuse and neglect that happens to people with disabilities.



There should be more money for advocacy and support for people with disabilities.





Australia must make laws to protect people with disability from practices being used to change behaviour.



Australia's Human rights Commission should conduct an inquiry into cruel treatment of people with disabilities



especially Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands.

Being treated with respect



Australian laws do not protect the individuality of people with disabilities so that they are treated with respect in our society.



Disabled people should be treated like anyone else, with the same respect and rights as others.

People with Disabilities should be free to move around from country to country



People with disabilities should have the right to decide where they live and to move about in the same way as everyone else.



To have passports



and to be supported and respected wherever they choose to live.

Living Independently in the Community



Australia must close all institutions that are still open.



Australia should make sure disabled people have freedom of choice, independent living and to be a part of their communities.



The government should provide a range of different support services for people with disabilities including personal assistance.



The government should provide money for people with disabilities to have the equipment and aids they need so that they can live independently

Being able to say what you want and having the information you need.



Information must be provided in a way that people with disabilities can easily understand it.

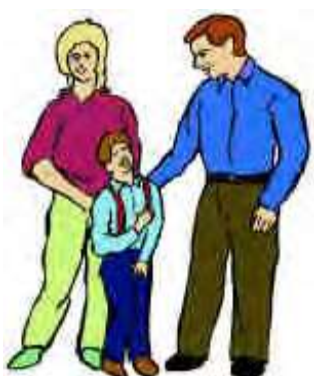


Auslan sign language should be officially recognised by the government.



The special needs of deaf-blind people should be recognised.

Respect for home and family.



Many people with disabilities experience discrimination in choice of relationships, having a family and having children.



Parents with disabilities are more likely to have their children taken away than non-disabled parents.



Many disabled women are sterilised so that they cannot have children



The report says that the government must make laws and provide support and information about the rights of people with disabilities to make their own choices in their relationships.



Education



People with disabilities do not have enough opportunities to go to mainstream schools.



The report says that the government must provide more opportunity for people with disabilities to go to mainstream schools.



The government must take action on bullying and discrimination against children with disabilities in schools.

Health and other services that help you recover



The government does not spend enough on health for people with disabilities



especially for Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands





There are not enough
Services that help people
with disabilities recover
from illness.



The government must make
sure that the same health
services are for everyone.

Work and Jobs



Work opportunities for people with disabilities in Australia are worse than in many other countries.

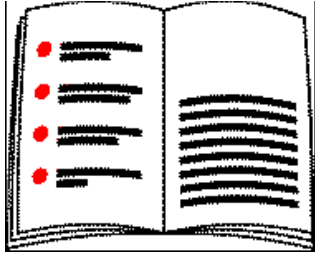


Many people with disabilities still work in sheltered workshops.



Aboriginal people with disabilities and those from the Torres Strait Islands find it even harder to get jobs





Australia must have a plan to support people with disabilities to get proper training for jobs.



The government should stop giving money for sheltered workshops



The government must give better support to women with disabilities to get proper jobs.



Australia needs laws that make sure disabled people are treated equally and fairly at work.



Disabled people must have equal job rights and rules and pay.

Having enough money to live properly



People with disabilities
still
live in poverty.



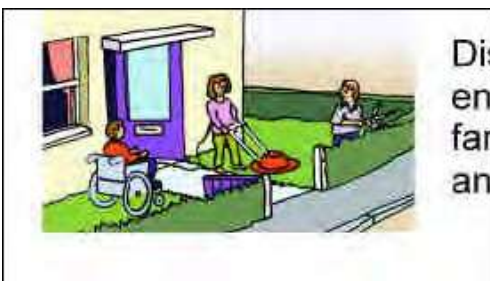
Aboriginal people and
people from the Torres
Strait Islands are worse
off than anyone.



Australia has a Disability Support Pension for people with disabilities. This needs to be increased regularly.



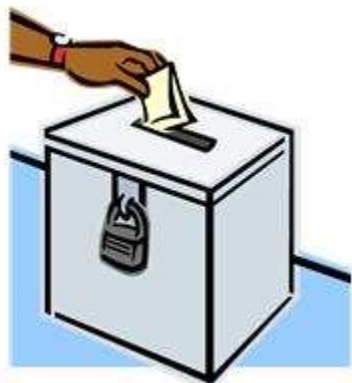
People with disabilities from other countries should not have to wait for ten years before they can get the pension.



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Australia must see that Disabled people should be able to get help to improve their standard of living.

Being involved in Politics



People with Disabilities don't have to vote

The government must make it easier for people with disabilities to vote



The government should support people with disabilities if they want to join political parties.



People with disabilities must be encouraged to join organisations of disabled people

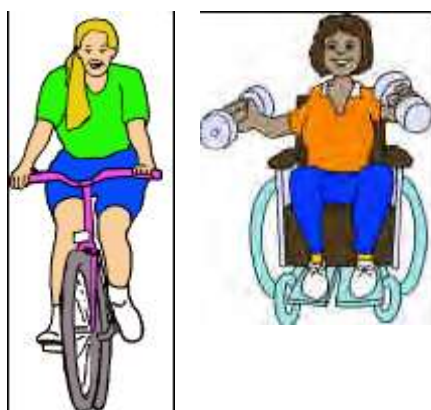


People with disabilities must be able to become members of parliament

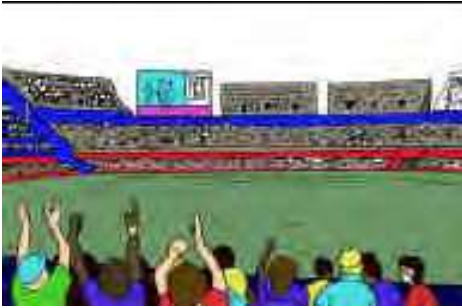
Taking part in leisure activities



People with disabilities do not have the same chance as non-disabled people to join in leisure activities.



Disabled people have the right to take part in sports and leisure as much as anybody else.



The government must provide programs that help people with disabilities to have friendships through doing sport and other leisure activities.



The government must support Aboriginal people with disabilities and people from the Torres Strait Islands to take part in leisure activities.

Collecting Information



Australia collects information but it is not used well enough to improve services to people with disabilities.



Australia must make its collection of information more useful to improve services.

Countries working together



Countries should work together as partners to make this agreement happen.

They should:



make sure that working together includes people with disabilities.



make sure that countries share information, experiences and training so that all people work in the best way.

Making the Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability happen



The government has not involved enough people with disabilities in testing that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability is carried out.



Australia must make sure that more people with disabilities are part of making sure that the Convention is carried out.



This means funding advocacy organisations