

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The purpose of this Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights for all people with disability, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. The principles of the present Convention include:

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- Non-discrimination;
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Accessibility;
- Equality between men and women; and
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

The Convention then specifically protects various civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in a manner specific to persons with disabilities, and places various obligations on countries to ensure this.

The Convention also creates a monitoring body, called the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee has three functions. First, the Committee receives reports from countries on the measures they have taken to give effect to the obligations in the Convention. Secondly, the Committee has power to receive complaints from individuals and groups of individuals who believe that their country has breached the Convention. Thirdly, the Committee has the power to conduct inquiries into complaints of grave or systematic breaches of the Convention, where there is reliable information to support such allegations.

More Information

- For the text of the Convention with detailed commentary, see:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

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- For more information about the work of the United Nations for people with disability around the world, see

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/>

- For information about the work of the United Nations specifically for people with albinism, see

[https://albinism.ohchr.org/Australia's Obligations](https://albinism.ohchr.org/Australia's%20Obligations)

Australia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 17 July 2008 and acceded to its Optional Protocol on 21 August 2009. This means that Australia is subject to all of the international legal obligations contained in the Convention. It also means that the three functions given to the Committee apply to Australia – that is, the periodic reporting obligation, the ability to make individual complaints to the Committee, and the power to consider grave or systematic breaches of the Convention.

Australia is yet to incorporate the Convention into domestic law, as such. Until the Australian Parliament enacts the Convention into domestic law, it is not directly enforceable in the Australian legal system, but is influential within the State, Territory and Federal anti-discrimination/human rights systems described above.

For further information about the Convention in relation to Australia, see

<https://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights/Human-rights-scrutiny/PublicSectorGuidanceSheets/Pages/Rightsofpeoplewithdisability.aspx>