

FACT SHEET

DISABILITY RIGHTS

DISABILITY LEGISLATION

The **Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)** makes disability discrimination unlawful, and promotes equal rights, equal opportunity and equal access for people with disability.

In addition to this, Victoria has created the **Disability Act 2006**, which sets out principles for people with a disability and for disability service providers.

In 2008, Australia became a signatory of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT

- Provides protection for all people in Australia against discrimination based on disability
- The following areas of life are covered: Employment; Education; Access to premises used by the public; Provision of goods, services and facilities; Accommodation; Buying land; Activities of Clubs and Associations; Sport; and Administration of Commonwealth Government laws and programs
- The definition of disability in the Act includes: Physical; Intellectual; Psychiatric; Sensory; Neurological; Learning disabilities; Physical disfigurement; and The presence in the body of disease-causing organisms.

DISABILITY ACT

Ensures a person with a disability cannot be discriminated against or treated unfairly because of their disability. Provides for:

- A stronger whole-of-government and whole-of-community response to the rights and needs of people with a disability.
- A framework for the provision of high quality services and supports for people with a disability.

Additions to the Act include:

- Disability Amendment Act 2017 (made changes to authorise sharing of certain information to implement the NDIS and enhanced the powers of the Disability Services Commissioner)
- Disability Regulations 2018 (Provides additional safeguards, transparency and accountability to people with a disability)

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

“The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an international treaty that identifies the rights of persons with disabilities as well as the obligations on States parties to the Convention to promote, protect and ensure those rights. The Convention also establishes two implementation mechanisms: the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, established to monitor implementation, and the Conference of States Parties, established to consider matters regarding implementation” United Nations

Source: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/about-disability-rights>,
<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/disability-act-2006>