



# human right

***noun***

*plural noun: human rights*

a right which is believed to belong to every person



# Human rights and mental illness in Australia



Burdekin Report 1993

- Report of the National Inquiry into the Human Rights of People with Mental Illness
- To increase the understanding, acceptance and observance of human rights in Australia
- To promote a fairer society by protecting human rights and ensuring that Australia complies with its human rights obligations under international law



*Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

*United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified by Australia in 2008)*



# United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

## **Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community**

States Parties to the present Convention recognise the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

- a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;
- c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.



## UN meeting to discuss Article 19

### COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**Call for submissions: Day of General Discussion (DGD) on the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, to be held on 19 April 2016, (Conference room XIX, Palais des Nations), Geneva**



## Australian Government submission to UN review of Article 19 - April 2016

"Australia considers community-based rehabilitation, implemented through the combined efforts of persons with disabilities, their families and communities, and representatives of the appropriate health, education, vocational and social sectors, essential to enable persons with disabilities to have greater independence, access community services and facilities, and contribute to and be part of their communities"



## Office of the Public Advocate position

"Community mental health rehabilitation and support services are needed for people with mental illness to exercise their right under article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to live independently and be included in the life of the community"





## Contact details

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