

Station 1: Human rights and being equal

Human rights and being equal means everyone in the community, including people with disability, are treated the same.

People with disability should have the same opportunities and access as other people in the community, and be treated fairly.

The current National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 aims to make sure *people with disability have their rights promoted, upheld and protected*.

The Strategy is the main way Australia implements the United Nations [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), which is about:

- respecting dignity and independence, including freedom to make choices
- non-discrimination
- full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- respect for difference and acceptance of people with disability
- equality of opportunity
- accessibility
- equality between men and women
- respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right to preserve their identities.

The current Strategy recognises that how society views disability causes disadvantage and exclusion. Everyone in the community is responsible for respecting and protecting human rights.

When it comes to rights and being equal, how could a future strategy improve:

Self-determination, choice and control

Respect for people with disability to have:

- independence
- the freedom to make their own decisions
- choices about what they need
- control over what they do.

Rights protection, safety and justice

Upholding the rights of people with disability and:

- making sure people don't suffer violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation
- protecting those most vulnerable in the community.

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Legislation

Laws to respect rights, including equal opportunity, including:

- national laws for anti-discrimination, quality assurance and safeguards
- state and territory laws about services and safety.

Public awareness

How the community perceives disability so that everyone knows:

- the contribution people with disability make
- the rights of people with disability and the barriers they still face.

Advocacy

Independent advocacy that:

- promotes and values people's rights
- helps people equally participate in the community and make decisions that affect their lives.

Systemic advocacy, which introduces and influences longer-term changes that:

- uphold the rights of people with disability
- positively affects the quality of their lives.

In relation to these areas, we'd like to know:

- What are some barriers or issues people with disability face when it comes to having the same freedom and control as everyone else?
- What are your ideas for making sure people with disability have more freedom and control over their own lives?