

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism
6 March 2018

Australian Statement

Thank you to the Special Rapporteur and the Independent Expert for their presentations.

Australia is firmly committed to promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities to achieve equal recognition before the law. We agree with the Special Rapporteur that women and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Australia is proud that its Disability Discrimination Act has now been in operation for twenty-five years, promoting equal rights, equal opportunity and equal access for people with disabilities. We were especially pleased that the Special Rapporteur was able to join the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Act last week in Sydney.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is central to Australia's disability reform agenda. It aims to ensure that persons with disabilities receive support based on their needs and have choice and control over that support.

Australia acknowledges the importance of supported decision-making for persons with disabilities where this is possible. Supported decision-making pilots have been undertaken at state and territory levels.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur's view that states need to share and systematise lessons learned from these types of pilots and turn them into systematic, comprehensive and sustainable responses.

Australia is interested to learn about best practice examples of supported decision-making in practice and what makes these effective.

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