



UNGA Third Committee
Item 74: Promotion of human rights instruments: Report of the
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

Statement delivered on 22 October 2018

The Australian Government welcomes the Special Rapporteur's ongoing advocacy on disability rights and inclusion, and thanks her for her report on the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health of persons with disabilities.

Australia acknowledges the challenges and concerns outlined in the report.

Persons with disabilities need health care for the same reasons anyone else does – to stay well, active, and participate in society. However, they often have limited opportunities to reach their potential because the barriers to accessing basic health services, including medical and rehabilitation services, are all too real.

Australia recognises that to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a healthy population is critical, as health is both an outcome of, and a path to, achieving sustainable development. Therefore, we look to the commitment of States to further mainstreaming of disability in health services, to remove barriers, and promote productive and healthy lives for all. This includes universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights.

Australia remains firmly committed to fully implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Disability will continue to be a priority for Australia; not only domestically, but also in our international engagement in development, humanitarian action and human rights.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's guidance to States on further promoting health services that are inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities.

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