

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International, Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, Rehabilitation International, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the DeafBlind, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum, Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Personas con Discapacidad y sus familias (RIADIS)

Suggestions for disability-relevant recommendations to be included in the Concluding Observations CEDAW Committee 46th Session (12 to 30 July 2010, NY)

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has prepared the following suggestions for the concluding observations, based on references to persons with disabilities to be found in the reports on Australia.

AUSTRALIA

[State Report](#)

5.15 In 2006–07, women made up more than half (57 per cent) of the Australian Public Service workforce. They now hold 36 per cent of Senior Executive positions, an increase of 6 per cent since 2003. In 2006–07 Indigenous women represented 2.5 per cent of the Australian Public Service, compared to 1.8 per cent for Indigenous men. **Women with disabilities** made up 2.8 per cent and men with **disabilities** 3.9 per cent. Women born overseas whose first language is not English comprise 5.8 per cent, while their male counterparts comprise 5.6 per cent of the Australian Public Service. In Senior Executive positions of the Australian Public Service, Indigenous women represent 2.5 per cent, **women with disabilities** 2.8 per cent, and women born overseas whose first language is not English comprise 5.8 per cent.

Workforce participation of women with disability

9.51 The Australian Government has focused on approaches, programs and policies that bring people with disability into the mainstream of economic and productive life by improving their access to employment and training services. Data indicate that in 2003, 73 just over half of people with disability participated in the labour force, compared to about four in five people without a disability. Men with disability had higher rates of labour force participation (59.3 per cent) than women with disability (46.9 per cent). Employed women with disability are also more likely to be employed part-time, compared to employed men with disability who are most likely to be employed full-time.

9.52 In January 2008, the Australian Government announced an investment of \$3.7 billion over three years from 1 July 2009 in a new generation of employment services. The new employment services system will mean more

tailored assistance for jobseekers based on their level of disadvantage; will increase early assistance to the most disadvantaged jobseekers; and will better meet the skill needs of employers. Under the Employer Incentives strategy, the Australian Government also offers a number of incentives to encourage employers to employ people with disability, including help for deaf workers and with workplace modifications and recruitment.

9.53 The Australian Government is developing a national mental health and disability employment strategy, which will outline how policy and programs across the Australian and state and territory governments can better operate together to help people with disability and mental illness find and keep work.

9.54 The Northern Territory Government runs the Australians Working Together grants program (funded by the Australian Government), which provides financial support for pilot programs to help employment-disadvantaged Territorians, including people with disability, migrants and refugees, and young women at risk of long-term unemployment to access training and employment opportunities. In 2008, six of the eight funded programs had high female participation.

9.55 South Australia's Strategic Plan outlines targets to double the number of people with disabilities employed in the public sector by 2014.

10.1 The Australian Government recognises that by improving the health of all Australian women, the health of the whole community is improved. In Australia, women generally fare much better than men on many indicators of health and wellbeing, including life expectancy. However, more effort is needed, especially to further improve the health of Indigenous women, **women with disability**, older women and women living in rural and remote areas.

14.25 In 2005, the Australian Government Office for Women commissioned the Australian Bureau of Statistics to conduct a personal safety survey to collect information from a large sample (11,000 women and 4,500 men) about their experiences of violence. The survey found that around one in three Australian women experience physical violence and that almost one in five women experience sexual violence over their lifetime. It is also recognised that Aboriginal women are 40 times more likely to be a victim of family violence compared with other Australian women. International studies estimate that more than 80 per cent of **women with intellectual disabilities** have experienced some form of sexual abuse throughout their lifetime, and that **women with disability** are assaulted, raped and abused at least twice the rate of **women without disability**.

[List of Issues](#)

9. Please provide information on how the State party intends to strengthen its efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women, especially perpetrated against indigenous women. Please provide information on any specific legislative provisions that define and criminalize acts of domestic violence. Please indicate the number of the convictions and sanctions imposed on perpetrators, including the number of reported cases of murders of women by their current husbands, partners or ex-partners. Do women victims of violence, in particular women belonging to vulnerable or disadvantaged groups,

such as indigenous women, **women with disabilities**, older women, rural women, migrant women and women disadvantaged due to their sexual orientation and gender identity, have equal and adequate access to shelters and other protection and support services in all states and territories?

Recommendations from IDA

- To pay special attention to the human rights violations of girls and women with disabilities.
- To adopt targeted measures for the media and education system to promote positive images of women with disabilities.
- To undertake specific measures to assist women with disabilities to enter into the labour market.
- To put in place mechanisms to make health care services accessible to women with disabilities included access to reproductive rights.
- To adopt targeted measures to combat violence against women with disabilities, ensuring inclusion of women with disabilities in violence prevention programs and to guarantee that protection programs, services and remedies are adequate and accessible for women with disabilities.
- To provide more information on indigenous women with disability.
- To take appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women with disability included indigenous women with disability.