

Inequality for people with disabilities

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Australia is failing to meet the basic rights of people with disabilities in education, employment, participation in society and access to health services, a report says...

Disabilities Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes will launch the Disability Rights Now report ([LINK](#))

It makes more than 130 recommendations to the UN Disabilities Committee, seeking to eliminate inequality for people with disabilities and comes after three years of research and community consultation.

The report found most Australians with a disability are isolated, afraid of exploitation or violence or are living below the poverty line.

Improving equality and non-discrimination laws, the ability to live independently, community involvement and protection from abuse and exploitation are some of its key recommendations.

Australian Human Rights Centre spokeswoman Rosemary Kayes said people with a disability were left behind and made to feel like second class citizens.

"The majority of people with a disability are experiencing isolation or loneliness, living in fear of violence or exploitation or are unemployed and living below the poverty line," Ms Kayes said in a statement.

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations' Lesley Hall said the report highlights the inequality suffered by people with a disability.

"While much progress has been made over the last 30 years, Australians with a disability remain significantly disadvantaged on nearly every socio-economic factor," Ms Hall said in a statement.

"This report card on the difficulties faced daily by people with disabilities shows how far we still need to come to achieve genuine equality for all Australians."

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