



Women
With
Disabilities
Australia
(WWDA)

Winner National Violence Prevention Award 1999
Winner National Human Rights Award 2001
Winner Tasmanian Women's Safety Award 2008
Certificate of Merit Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards 2008
Nominee UN Millennium Peace Prize for Women 2000
Nominee French Republic's Human Rights Prize 2003
Nominee National Disability Awards 2017
Nominee UNESCO Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2021

5 December 2024

Secretariat, Foundational Supports Consultation

Department of Social Services

By email: foundationalsupports@thesocialdeck.com

Dear Secretariat

Letter of support for submission by National Advocacy Collective

I write on behalf of Women With Disabilities Australia to express our support for the National Advocacy Collective's submission to the General Foundational Supports consultation, *Supporting the rights of parents with an intellectual disability*.

Women With Disabilities Australia, in partnership with Women With Disabilities ACT and Women With Disabilities Victoria, has also written a submission expressing the need for targeted support for people with disability who are parents and carers in the design of the Foundational Supports system.

The right to have a family and parent children is a fundamental human right. Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires Governments to take measures to eliminate discrimination against people with disability in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships. It affirms the right of people with disability to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education, and to the means necessary to enable them to exercise their rights. It also states that children must not be separated from parents on the basis of disability.

Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)

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WWDA has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United States



The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has expressed concern about Australia's compliance with these obligations. It has made a number of recommendations to the Australian Government, including that it adopt comprehensive and gender- and culturally-specific parenting and family support measures for parents with disability. Yet, parents with disability continue to experience significant disadvantage and unmet need.

Women With Disabilities Australia supports the recommendations made by the National Advocacy Collective as set out in its submission, including that:

General Foundational Supports must be fully resourced to:

1. Meet the needs of parents with an intellectual disability, including the needs of First Nations parents.
2. Develop accessible, independent and culturally appropriate information.
3. Develop supported decision-making resources and capacity-building activities.
4. Ensure access to independent advocacy and self-advocacy.
5. Provide access to peer support services.
6. Provide access to individual and family capacity building through targeted parenting support programs.
7. Provide transitional support to disability-led organisations and ensure that no parent with an intellectual disability is worse off during the transition to General Foundational Supports.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Cusworth

Chief Executive Officer

Women With Disabilities Australia

