



Talking about rights

The SL&RR program upholds the rights of people with intellectual disability, focusing particularly on their right to relationships that are respectful.

“Some people might have challenges with relationships because of their disability. They still have the same rights. It’s just a challenge, but it’s no different.” Linda Stokoe, SL&RR Peer Educator.

Environments which foster such forms of inclusion and visible representation of people with disability have been shown to have positive outcomesⁱ. This includes environments such as the SL&RR peer education program and network, home, employment, services or groups. Rights provide freedom, choice and opportunities. It is common for people with disabilities to experience absence of freedom or lack of opportunities as a result of someone else’s choices. People with disabilities are often denied the opportunity to make choices about basic things like food, where and who to live with, and going outⁱⁱ.

What is the UNCRPD?

The 25 articles in the United Nations Convention for the Rights of People with Disability (UNCRPD)ⁱⁱⁱ include a right to respect, individual choice, independence, non-discrimination, community access and inclusion, equality in opportunities, gender equality, acceptance for diversity and identity. The purpose of the UNCRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disability. As a signatory since 2008, Australia is in an agreement with other countries about rights for people with disability. Meaning that Australian

This information is linked to a resource called The Rights Cards, downloadable on the SL&RR website

legislation must protect the rights of people with disabilities the same way they protect the rights of everyone else.

At its forefront, SL&RR believes that people with disabilities have the right to make free and informed choices about their bodies, sexual health, reproductive health, intimate and emotional relationships, and parenting. The UNCRPD does not talk about sexuality rights clearly but does promote reproductive, Womens and sexual health rights. Sexuality is intrinsic to identity, and SL&RR encourages the inclusion of sexuality rights in future UNCRPD evolutions.

Key messages

- Sometimes it is harder for people with disability to have their rights respected.
- UNCRPD promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disability.
- People with disabilities have the right to make free and informed choices about their bodies, sexual health, reproductive health, intimate and emotional relationships, and parenting. Providing respect for this space can create positive outcomes.



ⁱhttps://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=Frawley%2C+Dyson%2C+Robinson%2C+%26+Dixon%2C+2015&btnG=

ⁱⁱ https://assets-global.website-files.com/5ea654fbfc3264738bbe2618/5ea654fbfc32642badbe2ffc_WWDA%20Position_Statement_2_-_The%20Right%20to%20Decision-Making_..pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html>

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