

6. Forced Sterilisation

This is a plain English summary of Australia's 2019 CRPD Factsheet 6

Forced practices

Forced sterilisation is when a person is given medication or has an operation to stop them having babies without their consent or without them agreeing to it.

Forced sterilisation is legal in Australia in some situations.

It is usually women and girls with disability who have it done to them.

Forced sterilisation is a type of violence.

Forced contraception of women and girls through drugs to manage their period is common and very rarely monitored.



Intersex people

Intersex people are born with physical sexual parts that do not fit with the medical norms of female or male bodies.

Some intersex people have surgery to change this.

Intersex children often do not get to say if they want this surgery.

Unnecessary surgery of intersex people is a type of torture.

It is also a breach of privacy.

Laws

Some laws in Australia provide some protection for people with disability and intersex people.

But there is no national law that stops it without fully informed consent.

The Australian government says it is the State and Territory governments that need to make laws about these things.

There have been many recommendations from the UN for Australia to bring in laws to stop these practices.

The government has not done this.

What we recommend

Make laws that prohibit the sterilisation of children, and the sterilisation of adults if they do not give fully informed consent.

Make laws that prohibit unnecessary medical interventions, including surgical and hormonal interventions on intersex children and adults if they do not give fully informed consent.

Get rid of the practice of giving drugs that suppress periods without a person's fully informed consent.

