



Australian Government

Department of Health

To the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group (NMSRG)

Re: Guidelines on the rights of people with disability in health and disability care during COVID-19 (2020)

I am writing to thank you for continuing to support people with disability and disability carers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We are aware that people with disability, carers of people with disability and other support people are likely to be encountering unique challenges at this time.

The Australian Government continues to promote and support actions and communications that ensure people with disability enjoy their human rights, including the right to health, on an equal basis in our community. To help health and disability workers during COVID-19, the Australian Human Rights Commission has published [Guidelines on the rights of people with disability in health and disability care during COVID-19](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/guidelines-on-the-rights-of-people-with-disability-in-health-and-disability-care-during-covid-19) on their website: <https://humanrights.gov.au/>

Our thanks to Dr Ben Gauntlett, the Disability Discrimination Commissioner for the provision of these contemporary and relevant guidelines. This is a valuable resource and we encourage its wide promotion, distribution and application across your membership. The publication of these guidelines is timely as the Disability Royal Commission has exposed issues of deep concern to people with a disability. This document will foreground some of these issues in the minds of health professionals and guide how to resolve them.

I continue to express my appreciation for your hard work providing essential health care services to your patients in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Coatsworth', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dr Nick Coatsworth
Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Australian Government Department of Health

22 September 2020