

PO Box A147, Sydney South NSW 1235

info@alhr.org.au [www.alhr.org.au](http://www.alhr.org.au)

**Media release**

**For immediate release *28 November 2014***

**Equalising capacity of people with disabilities – ALRC Report 124 released**

Australia Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR) congratulates the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) on delivering the report, *Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws.* Nathan Kennedy, President of ALHR briefly explains that “the Report advocates for a new “Commonwealth decision-making model” that emphasises ‘supporters’ and ‘representatives’ for people with disabilities rather than substituted decision making”.

ALRC have recommended for core law reform to re-align Commonwealth laws with international human rights obligations under the *Convention for Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD) on key areas including; access to justice, restrictive practices and electoral matters.

Adoption of the National Decision Making Principles offers an opportunity for Commonwealth laws to consistently apply to people with disabilities exercising capacity in a range of circumstances and offering support for individuals when exercising their capacity.

“Addressing the legal capacity of people with disabilities from a wills and preferences approach rather than one of best interest provides much needed equal recognition before the law for people with disabilities and greater compliance with Australia’s international human rights obligations” urges Mr Kennedy.

ALHR strongly encourages the Commonwealth Government to adopt the ALRC’s recommendations and align Commonwealth laws with Australia’s international obligations under the CRPD.

**Media Contact:** Natalie Wade Co-Convenor, SA Branch, ALHR

**M:** 0413 174 195 **E:** sa@alhr.org.au

ALHR (Australian Lawyers for Human Rights) is a network of Australian lawyers active in practising and promoting awareness of international human rights standards in Australia. ALHR has a national membership of over 2,600 people, with active National, State and Territory committees.