



Open letter to Australia's leaders

About this letter



This is a letter to the leaders of Australia:

- the Prime Minister
- the Leader of the Opposition.



This letter asks Australia's leaders to make sure voting laws are fair.

Voting laws must be fair for people with intellectual disability.



Many people and organisations want voting laws to be fair.

People can use this letter to ask for change.

To the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition



We are asking for Australia's voting laws to change.

Australia's laws must be fair for people with intellectual disabilities.



Voting is when people have a say about who will be part of Australia's government.

People choose who they want to be the leader of the country.



We ask our leaders to make a promise.

We ask leaders to protect the voting rights of people with disabilities.



In 2025 many Australians will vote in the next Election.



Voting is a basic right.

Voting lets people choose who leads our country.



But some people cannot vote.

There are old laws that stop some people from voting.



One law says that people with "cognitive impairment" can be stopped from voting.

This part of the law is called:

Section 93 (8) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.



This part of the law is not fair.

It stops many people with intellectual disability from voting.



Between 2008 to 2012 more than 28 thousand people could not vote because of this law.



This law goes against international rules.

Rules like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The CRPD says people with disabilities should vote like everyone else.



For 11 years Australia's leaders have not changed this law.

A report in 2014 said the law should change.



The law must focus on:

- a person's ability to choose for themselves when they vote
- the supports needed to understand their ability to choose for themselves.





The words in the law are old.

The words do not respect people with disabilities.



Australia's laws must keep up with changes in disability rights.



This is very important.

We must protect the rights of people with disability in Australia.



We must make sure people with disabilities have the same voting rights as everyone else.



We ask Australia's leaders to make a promise:

that leaders will change this law if they win the next election.