

Human Rights

All people who live with a disability or chronic health conditions have the right to be an active member of society and a say in decisions that affect their lives.

Epilepsy and disability can intersect in a number of ways. Some people living with epilepsy also live with a co-existing disability, such as a cognitive or physical one. In other cases a person is considered to have a recognised disability because their epilepsy is not controlled, despite being on anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs).

You may have an epilepsy diagnosis, but you may not consider that you have a disability. However, under the discrimination law framework, the definition of disability is stated broadly. Having an epilepsy diagnosis would be considered a disability in the context of discrimination law, as would other chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and arthritis.

Fortunately the rights of people are enshrined in a range of international, Australian and state-based Acts and Conventions:

- United Nations – [Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability](#)
- Commonwealth of Australia – [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#)
- Commonwealth of Australia – [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- Australian Capital Territory – [Disability Services Act 1991](#)
- New South Wales – [Disability Inclusion Act 2014](#)
- South Australia – [Disability Services Act 1993](#)
- Tasmania – [Tasmanian Disability Services Act 2011](#)
- Victoria – [Disability Act 2006](#)
- Western Australia – [Disability Services Act 1993](#)

The [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#) clarifies the obligations under the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) and provides students and prospective students with a disability the right to education and training opportunities on the same basis as students without a disability.

To learn more about disability and human rights visit the [Australian Human Rights Commission](#).