



**Australian
Human Rights
Commission**

PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE BORN WITH VARIATIONS IN SEX CHARACTERISTICS

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In Australia, some people born with variations in sex characteristics are subject to non-consensual medical interventions. This is done even where there is no medical need, and usually takes place to conform to ideas about what male and female bodies should look like.

There is growing concern about the human rights implications of these practices in Australia and internationally. Currently there are no national guidelines on the management of people born with variations in sex characteristics in Australia.

In response to these concerns, the Australian Human Rights Commission is inquiring into how best to protect the human rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics in the context of medical interventions.

The aims of the project are to:

- identify key issues and obtain perspectives on current practice by consulting with various stakeholders, including individuals born with variations in sex characteristics, parents and carers, advocacy groups, medical professionals and representatives from federal, state and territory governments;
- evaluate the current approaches taken to medical interventions in Australia and other jurisdictions using a human rights-based framework; and
- develop recommendations for a nationally consistent human rights-based approach to decision-making about medical interventions.

As part of this project, the Commission is consulting with people from all walks of life who are affected by this issue. Stakeholder consultation is a vital element of the project. It will give individuals born with variations in sex characteristics, parents and carers, and medical professionals the opportunity to contribute to the development of the final report.

The consultation phase of the project will start in the second half of 2018. It will include group and individual interviews and a call for written submissions.

The Commission will publish a report, with recommendations for reform, after the consultation process is complete.



Australian Human Rights Commission

This sheet forms part of the Australian Human Rights Commission's research project into how best to protect the rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics in the context of medical interventions. These sheets are designed to prompt thoughts and considerations for written submissions. Submissions do not need to be limited to the issues raised in this sheet.

Writing a submission? Please complete a Participant Consent Form and attach it to your submission. Submissions should be sent by email to sogii@humanrights.gov.au or by post to GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001.

Your information will be stored securely and your identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Project findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications. Submissions on behalf of organisations may be identifiable only where the organisation has given permission for the Commission to publish information attributable to that organisation.

For further information about the project, please email sogii@humanrights.gov.au or phone 02 9284 9650 or 1300 369 711.

Consultation for this project has been approved by an external, independent Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). Any queries or concerns about ethics may be directed to the University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee by email to human.ethics@sydney.edu.au, citing reference 2018/338.