



HUMAN RIGHTS LEGAL SERVICE

Established within QAI in 2008, the Human Rights Legal Service (HRLS) provides specialist legal advice, referral and representation for vulnerable persons with disability in Queensland. It is a state-wide service based in Brisbane. Assistance is free of charge and confidential.

What type of work does the HRLS do?

The work of the HRLS is guided by a human rights framework which aims to protect and promote the fundamental human rights of clients, in particular:

- The right to life, liberty and security of person;
- Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and
- The right to equality before the law and equal protection of the law.

The extent of assistance provided is discretionary having regard to the needs of the client, the merits of the case and available resources. Examples of work include:

- Providing one-off legal advice about a client's rights and obligations;
- Undertaking legal research and preparing written legal advices; and
- Representing the client or the client's guardian in relevant legal hearings.

Who does the HRLS assist?

The HRLS provides services for vulnerable persons with disability in Queensland such as

- An intellectual disability and/or cognitive impairments (including ABI); or
- A dual diagnosis of intellectual disability/cognitive impairment plus mental illness; or
- Profound physical disability.

and require assistance in

- Guardianship and administration;
- Forensic Orders and Forensic Orders- Disability;
- Health care and life sustaining measures;
- Abuse/neglect and serious injury of people with disabilities.

The HRLS gives priority to assisting persons with impaired capacity who are subject to restrictive practices and involuntary treatment in Queensland. Restrictive practices are those practices defined in the Disability Services Act 2006, the Mental Health Act 2000 and the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000. They include the use of seclusion, containment and chemical, mechanical and/or physical restraint.

How do I get help?

Please contact us on 3844 4200. You will be required to provide certain personal details which are necessary for the HRLS to deliver its services. All personal information is treated as strictly confidential.