



POLICY SCORECARD

Welcoming Disability has compiled scorecards based on the policies of Australia's major political parties relevant to ending discrimination against people with disability in our migration health requirements

How do they measure up?





POLICY SCORECARD



Reforming migration health requirements (MHR)			
Reviewing Disability Discrimination Act			
Reviewing exclusion cost under the MHR			
Waiver of MHR for children born in Australia			
Ending discriminatory cost analysis of education for children with disability			

Explicit recognition of issue or larger context and need for change

General policies which could have meaningful impact in specific areas

General policies not directed beyond Australian citizens or permanent residents

No policies which would suggest awareness of this issue or its larger context



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OUR CONCERNS

Welcoming Disability is concerned that Migration Health Requirements as set out in the *Migration Regulations 1994* (MHR) discriminate against people with disability and other health issues. The 2011 Enabling Australia Inquiry into Migration and Disability made recommendations. In 2012 the government responded promising critical changes

Ten years later, these promises have not been implemented

The present migration health requirements regard people with disability and health issues as no more than a cost to the community

It's time for change!



ELECTION SCORECARD

OUR 5 KEY PRIORITIES

- Implementing changes promised in 2012 to migration health requirements
- Reviewing the exemption of the Migration Act 1958 from the Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Reviewing the overall community cost of granting visas to those currently excluded
- Granting a waiver of the Migration Health Requirement to all child visa applicants born in Australia
- Recognising that the education of all children is a community investment, not a community cost, and that the education of children with disability should not be costed as part of the Migration Health Requirement

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The Coalition parties responded jointly to this assessment of their respective policies and this response has been taken into account in the table below

Reforming migration health requirements (MHR)



No relevant stated policies in this area

Reviewing Disability Discrimination Act



No relevant stated policies in this area

Reviewing exclusion cost under the MHR



No relevant stated policies in this area

Waiver of MHR for children born in Australia



No relevant stated policies in this area

Ending discriminatory cost analysis of education for children with disability



No relevant stated policies in this area

The logo for the Australian Labor Party, featuring the word "Labor" in white text on a red rectangular background. To the right of the red box is a blue square containing the Australian flag's stars (the Southern Cross).

Summary: There are contradictions within Labor's policy on disability and its commitment against discrimination

Labor has strong and explicit policies on disability, including ensuring that people with disability have equal opportunities to access the community but these policies seem confined to 'the 4.4 million Australians living with disability'. The party is committed to ensuring 'no Australian with disability should be left behind' but their approach to disability appears to start and finish with citizens and permanent residents.

Policy supports it being 'unlawful to discriminate against any person on the basis of age, disability, race, religion, sex, gender identity, sex characteristics and sexual orientation', and supports a strong Disability Discrimination Commission to advocate for the human rights of people with disability. It also states it will 'work within the international system to promote and protect the rights of people with disability'; but it does not explicitly support UN Conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. There is no evidence its commitment to improving 'the human rights of people with disability' extends beyond Australians.

Labor's policy against discrimination in migration is explicitly couched in terms of supporting Australia's multicultural society. It shows no awareness of or readiness to act against disability discrimination in migration.



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Reforming migration health requirements (MHR)



No relevant stated policies in this area

Reviewing Disability Discrimination Act



No relevant stated policies in this area

Reviewing exclusion cost under the MHR



No relevant stated policies. ALP supports opposition to discrimination based on disability but does not appear to extend this to migration applicants

Waiver of MHR for children born in Australia



No relevant stated policies but ALP supports access and equity in health care

Ending discriminatory cost analysis of education for children with disability



ALP specifically supports opposition to discrimination based on disability. ALP says it will work within the international system to promote and protect the rights of people with disability but there is no recognition of the discriminatory nature of Australia's response to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, nor to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Summary: The Greens have advised that they would support amendments to the Migration Act removing all discriminatory language in relation to people with disability as well as a review of the costs of those excluded under MHR

Greens policy recognises that disabled people are often denied the rights others enjoy, and that this has been perpetuated by successive governments, both Coalition and ALP.

Greens policy includes removal of the structural discriminations faced by people with disability, and advocates removal of 'all environmental, social, cultural, attitudinal, and communication barriers to the full and equal participation of disabled people in all aspects of life and community'.

The party also explicitly notes that it does not see disabled people as an economic liability.

The party supports the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and supports adherence to this broader international human rights framework with removal of barriers which counter this.

The party explicitly states that the government has a responsibility to adhere to and if possible exceed the international frameworks articulated around people with disabilities in the CRPD.



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Reforming migration health requirements (MHR)



No specific policies but awareness of failures of successive governments in perpetuating discrimination

Reviewing Disability Discrimination Act



Yes, within framework of promoting access and inclusivity and acting in terms of our international human rights obligations in Australian policy. No specific reference to exclusion of Migration Act from Disability Discrimination Act

Reviewing exclusion cost under the MHR



No stated policy but commitment to removing structural barriers

Waiver of MHR for children born in Australia



Implicit in terms of removing barriers to inclusivity and removing structural barriers to participation

Ending discriminatory cost analysis of education for children with disability



Implicit in terms of removing barriers to inclusivity and removing structural barriers to participation but no specific awareness of migration policy in this area