

# **The involuntary or coerced sterilisation of people with disabilities in Australia.**

## **RE: No more eugenics!**

What is being proposed is the beginnings of genetic control. The "we don't want those kind of people to breed!" approach.

What type of disabilities will fall under this umbrella? I have epilepsy. Is moving to Canada something I should seriously look into? It appears we have fallen into Nazi Germany, where only certain people are valued. This sounds like genetic engineering on a government controlled level. I was unaware that eugenics, proudly supported by Hitler, was the Australian government approach.

I am wondering how a group of politicians have the right to make such a decision. Are any of you doctors and therefore members of the AMA? Are any of you psychologists or psychiatrists and therefore actually have the capacity to understand this issue appropriately? Are there any geneticists on the committee who will explain the you how DNA and RNA works? I wonder how many of you know someone with a disability? Do any of you have a disability which receives frequent stigma and discrimination?

Who are any of you to decide I or other females with disabilities are worthless? Who are any of you to act as God and decide the reproductive rights of others?

I think this issue is really about:

1. The concept that a disabled person has a sexuality and therefore may have sex makes many ignorant people radically uncomfortable.
2. The thought that two intellectually disabled people have a right to be in a committed relationship is something many in the community, including a staggering amount of politicians, cannot bear the thought of.
3. People are incredibly ignorant (politicians included) in understand how genetics works across the spectrum of disabilities. Therefore a child of two intellectually disabled people will most likely not be intellectually disabled.

4. The fact that it happens at all underlines another issue of the real status of females in society. If this was just about making it safe for girls and women with disabilities, then all the male children who are intellectually disabled should get vasectomies. After all, they would probably be the ones the girls/women dated. An afternoon operation is far less distressing than having your womb cut out.
5. The Judicial system has never protected women in regards to sexual assault and the horrifying thought of a child as a result of rape. By sterilising women the government can have a cop-out instead of actively protecting women. We wouldn't want men who rape disabled women to actually go to jail would we? It is hard enough right now to get them to go to jail if you are not intellectually disabled. Imagine being abused on the stand and being called a slut, on top of already being intellectually disabled? Better if we just do a cop-out instead.
6. Community support would be needed to ensure an appropriate level of support. This would cost money, and evident from government policy, people with disabilities are worthless and therefore don't deserve any money. Violating a women and cutting her womb out is therefore a much better option!
7. People with disabilities are lesser members in society - better to hide them away, make it not a problem, take away human rights - treat them like a dog.

In essence if this disgusting proposal becomes law you have said through behaviour and words that:

1. Women are worth less than men;
2. Reproductive rights are actually in the hands of politicians, not women; (sounding a lot like America and China now)
3. People with disabilities, who require and deserve, in a humane society, the most protection will get the least. Might as well put them down at birth - that's what we do with dogs, and that is how these women and girls will be treated, and are being treated.
4. That certain people should be bred out of the population. If they can't breed they'll die out. Then we won't have to look at them and feel uncomfortable.
5. That we won't need to look into the safety of women and girls with intellectual disabilities. At least if/when they are raped, they won't get pregnant. Well that makes it better! As someone who has been raped, not getting pregnant as a result of it didn't make up for it. Nor did fear of the judicial system. But it certainly helped my rapist get away with it. I have the capacity to speak my words and express myself eloquently. What hope does a women or

girl with a disability have in a judicial system that also wants to rape her emotionally afterward?

6. Abuse of the judicial system: using the judicial process to violate women and carve their reproductive organs out just shows the misogynistic nature of the judicial system and society. This is a moment to take it by the balls and improve it - have it protect the victims, not further victimise them. To have the courts merrily agree with carving a womb out, or not prosecuting people who abuse their daughters when they take them overseas for it, just shows how little women, particularly those who are disabled, are worth.

I ask that this proposal be rejected. This abuse of the most vulnerable cannot be condoned. It is a cop-out and no substitute for proper community support regarding normal female development such as menstruation, the provision of sexual safety and support when disabled women become loving mothers. Until eugenics is stopped and all women have true equal value in society this misogynistic approach will continue. I am disgusted and shocked that it is even being considered. Hitler would be proud of you.