



Note number: 127/2011

The Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

The Australian Government has the honour to refer to the Special Rapporteurs' letter of 18 July 2011 requesting the Government's response regarding the alleged practice of non-therapeutic, forced sterilisation of girls and women with disabilities in Australia.

The Australian Government has the further honour to refer to its correspondence of 12 August 2011, in which the Special Rapporteurs were informed that a response would be provided by the Australian Government by 17 October 2011.

The Australian Government is currently considering the information and questions contained in the letter of 18 July 2011. The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department is in the process of compiling a detailed Australian Government response to this request for information.

The Australian Government regrets that in order to ensure the Australian Government's response to this request is as comprehensive as possible, further consultation with the State and Territory governments is required, and consequently it is unlikely that this consultation will be completed before the earlier indicated date for submission of 17 October 2011.

The Australian Government is committed to upholding its international obligations and would prefer to take more time to ensure an accurate and fully considered response can be prepared on this important topic.

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

**- 5 OCT. 2011**

Recipients :.....*SPO*.....

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The Australian Government regrets this delay in response and will submit its final response to the Special Rapporteurs by 16 December 2011.

The Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.



Geneva  
30 September 2011