

## **The Protocol**

The Protocol is an optional addition to the Convention, consisting of 18 Articles.

The first eight of these prescribe how individuals or organisations can make representations to the Committee about their treatment, and the steps the Committee might take to assist them to gain redress, by making representations to the offending signatory government, and discussing how it might bring its activities in line with the signed convention..

The rest of the articles mimic the last articles of the Convention itself, ie. providing details on the technical means by which the Protocol comes into force.

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States may sign the Convention, or sign both the Convention and the Protocol, and may ratify one or both.

Australia has signed and ratified both the Convention and the Protocol.

A map of the world showing who has signed is available at;  
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/maps/enablemap.jpg>

## **NOTE ABOUT RESERVATIONS AND INTERPRETIVE DECLARATIONS.**

States may sign the Convention, but register reservations about one or more articles or paragraphs. In other words, they say ‘We agree with it, but not these bits’. Or they may make “Interpretive Declarations”. This means that they adopt the convention, but only if particular Articles are interpreted in the way stated.

For example, the British Government signed, but with reservations about four Articles and/or paragraphs. People in the UK are working with the Government to overcome its reservations and adopt the whole Convention.

Australia did not register any reservations, but made three ‘interpretive declarations’ on Articles 12, 17 and 18

Full details of Australia’s interpretive declarations can be seen on  
[http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en](http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en)

## **AUSTRALIAN REPORTS**

Under the terms of the Convention, Australia made its first report to the UN in 2010. The report can be accessed [here](#).

A shadow report was also compiled by community organisations, giving what some would call a more frank evaluation of Australia's compliance with the UNCRPD.

The Shadow Report is available at: < <http://www.disabilityrightsnow.org.au/node/15>>