



**Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission**

## **PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE BORN WITH VARIATIONS IN SEX CHARACTERISTICS**

### **UNDERSTANDING LIVED EXPERIENCES**

Understanding the lived experiences of people born with variations in sex characteristics is central to protecting their human rights.

Previously shared stories from this population reveal a diversity of experiences and changes in understandings of themselves over time. These stories have had a powerful impact in understanding past and current clinical practices and understanding the needs and challenges faced in accessing appropriate healthcare.

A lack of understanding can result in assumptions about what people born with variations in sex characteristics want or need and the challenges they face.

Education and awareness raising is therefore a crucial part of protecting the human rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics, as policies and practices can only be helpful and targeted with this knowledge and understanding.

#### **Discussion questions:**

- Broadly, how would you describe your experiences in the context of medical interventions?
- What are the current Australian sources of information and education about the experiences of people born with variations in sex characteristics?
- Are there gaps and/or inconsistencies in sources of information and education that are available about the experiences of people born with variations in sex characteristics? If so, what is the impact of this?

This sheet forms part of the Australian Human Rights Commission's inquiry into how best to protect the rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics in the context of medical interventions. These sheets are designed to prompt thoughts and considerations for written submissions. Submissions do not need to be limited to the issues raised in this sheet.



## Australian Human Rights Commission

**Writing a submission?** Please complete a Participant Consent Form and attach it to your submission. Submissions should be sent by email to [sogii@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:sogii@humanrights.gov.au) or by post to GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001.

Your information will be stored securely and your identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Inquiry findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications. Submissions on behalf of organisations may be identifiable only where the organisation has given permission for the Commission to publish information attributable to that organisation.

For further information about the project, please email [sogii@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:sogii@humanrights.gov.au) or phone 02 9284 9650 or 1300 369 711.

Consultation for this project has been approved by an external, independent Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). Any queries or concerns about ethics may be directed to the University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee by email to [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au), citing reference 2018/338.