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## OUR FORGOTTEN FAMILIES

### Our Forgotten Families:

*Issues and challenges faced by parents  
with a disability in Victoria  
(2010)*



## Human Rights

- *There is inadequate consideration of the issues faced by parents with disabilities and their families under international and Victorian human rights obligations*
- **We need to be talking about Human Rights— everybody's human rights:**
  - The child
  - The parent
  - The family
  - The community



Rights & responsibilities

## Let's talk about Rights & Responsibilities

- equality rights
- the right to privacy
- protection of families as the fundamental group unit of society
- protection of children's best interests
- cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment

## Legal, Disability, Child and Family Systems

- **Awareness of the issues faced by parents with a disability**
- **Funded, coordinated and accessible services for parents with disabilities that accurately reflect the actual needs of families.**
- **Individualised Support Packages**
- **Training for parents with disabilities re rights and options**

## Advocacy

- **Families are not able to access advocacy services (both lay and legal) in a timely manner and from staff who are adequately trained and funded to provide assistance across all services and systems**
- **From the beginning – before pregnancy, during pregnancy, at birth, as children grow**
- **Across all systems to prevent involvement with tertiary level services where possible**

