

## Use of single/male care workers

The issue of single/ male care workers providing care in isolation for children with a disability has been raised with Disability SA by some parent advocates.

Disability SA's position is that, in accordance with the *Equal Opportunity Act (1984)*, discrimination against a person on the grounds of their gender is prohibited.

It is also important to recognise the valuable contribution that both male and female care workers make, and the important role they play in providing care for children with diverse circumstances, needs and preferences.

However, this must also be balanced with the specific wishes of people with a disability and their families, and their right to choose services according to their personal requirements, particularly in relation to personal care. Disability SA actively encourages service providers to acknowledge and understand client and family wishes in this regard, and assess care requirements on a case by case basis to ensure clear service expectations.

Please note that this does not affect the legal and contractual requirements your organisation has for the employment of your staff.