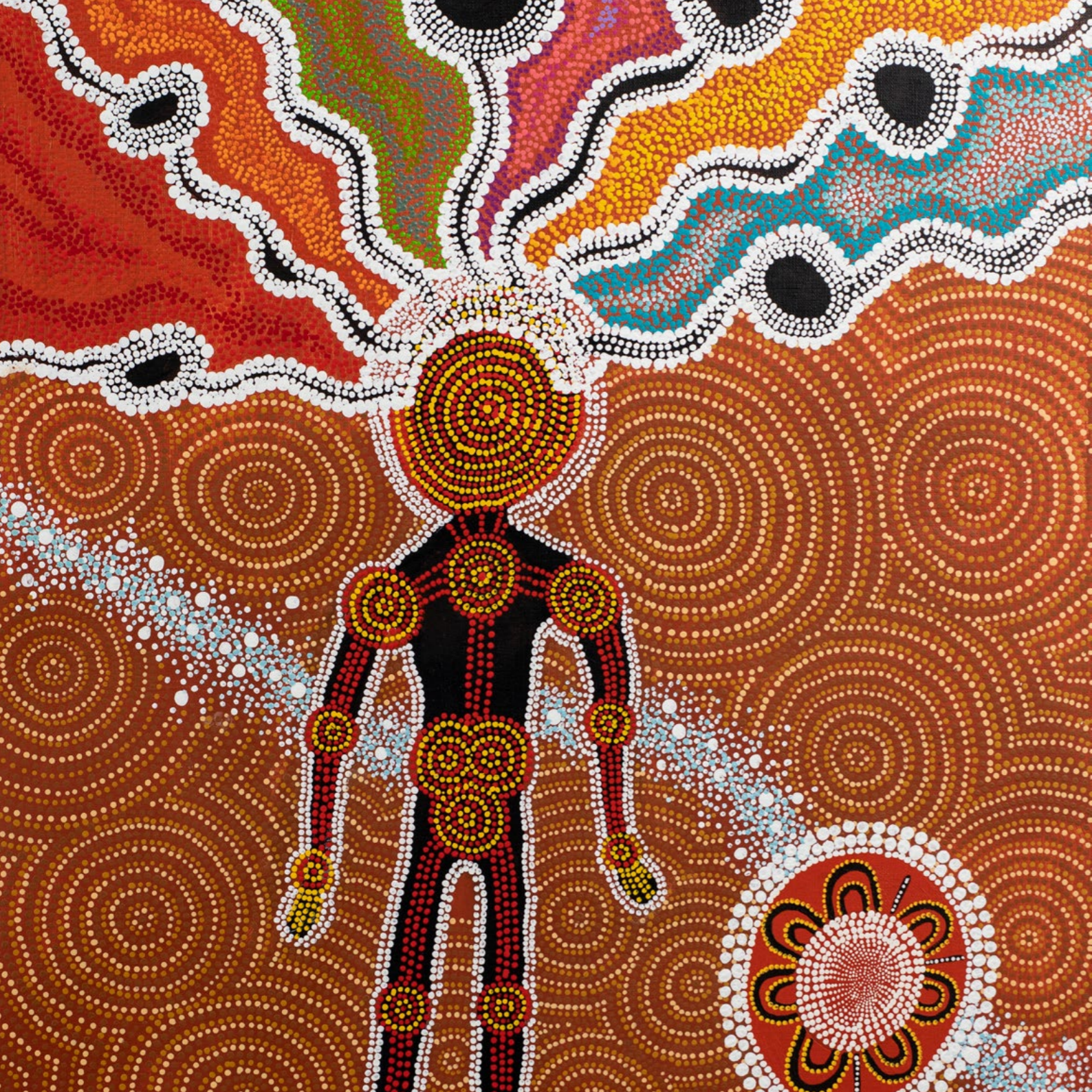


# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION  
ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES**



First Peoples  
Disability Network



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION  
ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES

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## PRINCIPLES

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The main beliefs of this convention are that you as a person living with a disability,

- Should be treated with respect and dignity and not discriminated against.
- Be included in your community and treated with the same rights as others.
- Be given equal opportunities to contribute.
- Men's and women's business is treated equally
- Respect and support for disabled children so they feel proud of who they are.

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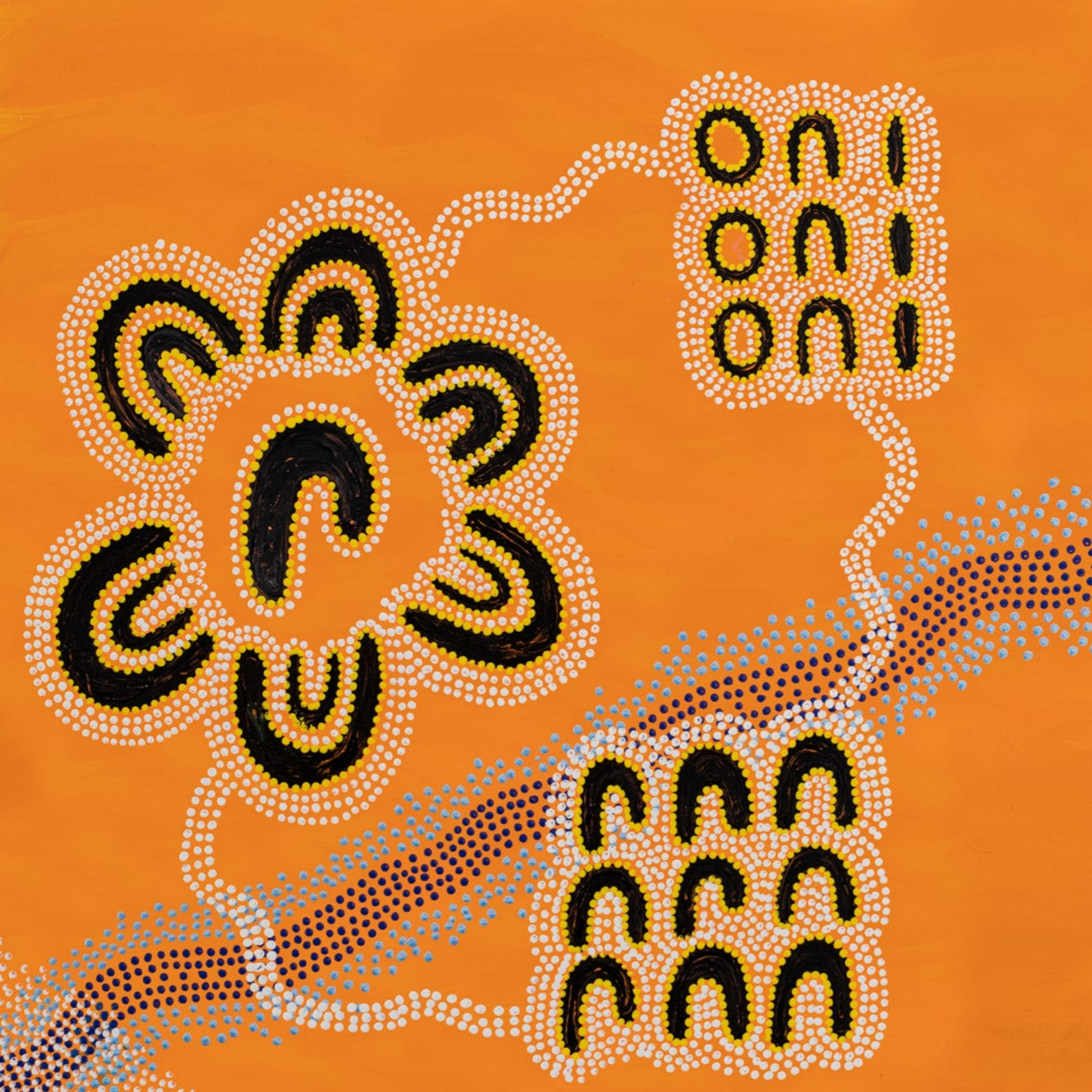
## GENERAL OBLIGATION, AND EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

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**There should be no laws or old traditions that take away any of your rights as a person with a disability; if there are, lawmakers should work together to change them to make sure you have the same opportunities as everyone else in your community.**

The government and law makers ensure people with disabilities are protected by the same laws as everyone else.

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## WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

The government and lawmakers agree to protect the rights and freedoms of disabled women and girls. Women and girls have the right to be safe, shielded, and protected from discrimination and abuse. The laws that protect women and girls must be told to everyone in the community and always be upheld.

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## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities have the same right to education and opportunities as other children; they have the right to play and be a part of the yarning circle; they have the right to be protected and kept safe; and they have the right to be listened to and have a say in their lives.

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## AWARENESS RAISING

The community should be made aware of the achievements and contributions that people living with disability make to their community and to society, and these positive messages should be shared.

People living with disability should have the opportunity to inform services and government organisations about the best way to support them in keeping strong.

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## ACCESSIBILITY

**As a person living with a disability, you have the right to live independently, travel anywhere and stay overnight, have access to all public buildings and transportation, participate in your community, and shop for and choose your own food.**

You have the right to information in a format that you can understand.

Any barriers or laws that stop you from being able to do the above must be removed by the law makers.

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## RIGHT TO LIFE

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As a person with a disability, you have the same right to life as everyone else, including the right to proper hospital care. No one can make decisions about your treatment without your permission.

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## SITUATIONS OF RISK AND EMERGENCY

As a person with living with a disability, you have the same rights as everyone else to be kept safe during emergencies such as bushfires, floods, and storms. You have the right to go to shelters and cannot be left behind because of your disability.

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## EQUAL RECOGNITION BEFORE THE LAW

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**As a person living with a disability, you have the right to be treated with respect like everyone else.**

You have the right to travel your own path and live your life like anyone else. You have the right to practise your culture and be recognised as a traditional custodian of your ancestral lands.

You have the right to get a loan or sign a lease, to buy land or live where you want, own land passed down to you from your Elders, and to get proper advice to help you in making these decisions.

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## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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**If you feel you are not being treated fairly or respectfully by the police or get into any trouble with the law, you have the right to meet with a professional that can help you with your rights.**

If you have to go to court and appear before a magistrate, you have the right to be legally supported; in some cases, you can also have a community Elder support you in court.

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## LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

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**You have the right to live your life your way  
and to feel safe in society.**

Whether you are a man or a woman who is part of the LGBTIQ+ or 7 SPIRITS COMMUNITY, Brother Boy or Sister Girl community, or a multicultural community, you have the right to be respected and to live your own life as you choose.

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## FREEDOM FROM TORTURE OR CRUELTY, VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

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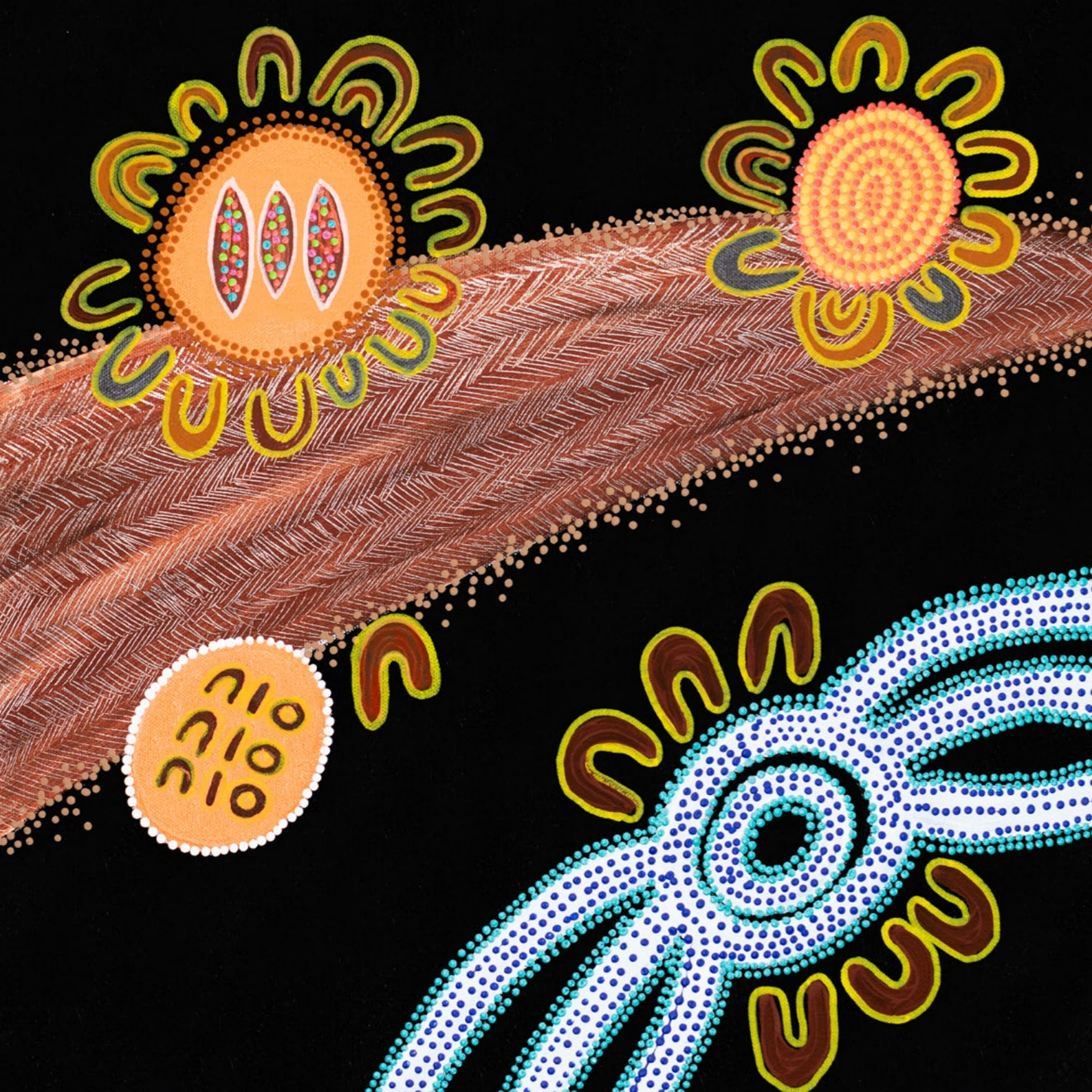
**You can't be locked away or not be allowed to travel in your community just because you have a disability. You have the right to be protected and feel safe, no one has the right to hurt you.**

Doctors and nurses are not allowed to do things to you unless you are aware of what they are doing and agree to it.

No one has the right to use your story or sell your paintings without your permission or paying you a fair price.

If someone does these things to you, you have the right to seek help.

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## PROTECTING THE PERSON

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No one has the right to treat you disrespectfully because of your disability; you have the right to be respected and valued as part of the yarning circle, just as you are.

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## LIBERTY OF MOVEMENT AND NATIONALITY

A person with a disability has the same rights as anyone else to live at home with their family or with someone else; to live on their traditional lands with their own community and be recognised and acknowledged by Elders; and to travel internationally to live, work, or simply visit other countries and cultures.

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## LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AND BEING INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL MOBILITY

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**As a person with a disability you have the right to live as independently as possible and to have access to the right services to help you do this.**

You have the right to connect to country and culture, your saltwater dreaming, fresh water dreaming, or desert dreaming.

You have the right to form relationships with who you choose and to live with who you choose. You have the right to participate in and be a part of your community, and to have access to the right equipment to help you do this as independently as possible.

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## RESPECT FOR PRIVACY

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**You have the right to have information that you have shared with your services kept private.**

Your personal decisions, like who you have relationships with, or what you eat should be respected and kept private. It should only be shared with the people you say it's okay to, rather than having every man and his dog knowing your business.

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## RESPECT FOR HOME AND THE FAMILY

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**As a person with a disability, you have the right to stay with your existing family in your family home, or live independently in your own home.**

You have the right to marry to whoever you wish, and to have a family of your own.

The government should provide the support and services you need to help you achieve your goals without facing barriers.

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## THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

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**As a person with a disability, you have the same right to an education as everyone in Australia does.**

You have the right to go to school and be taught by qualified teachers. You have the right to attend TAFE and be taught skills by experts in different trades. You have the right to attend university and receive higher education from doctors and professors.

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## HEALTH AND GOOD SERVICES

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You have the right to access culturally respectful services and to have access to the support and equipment that will help you stay healthy, independent and strong in areas of your life such as, relationships, family, community, and culture.

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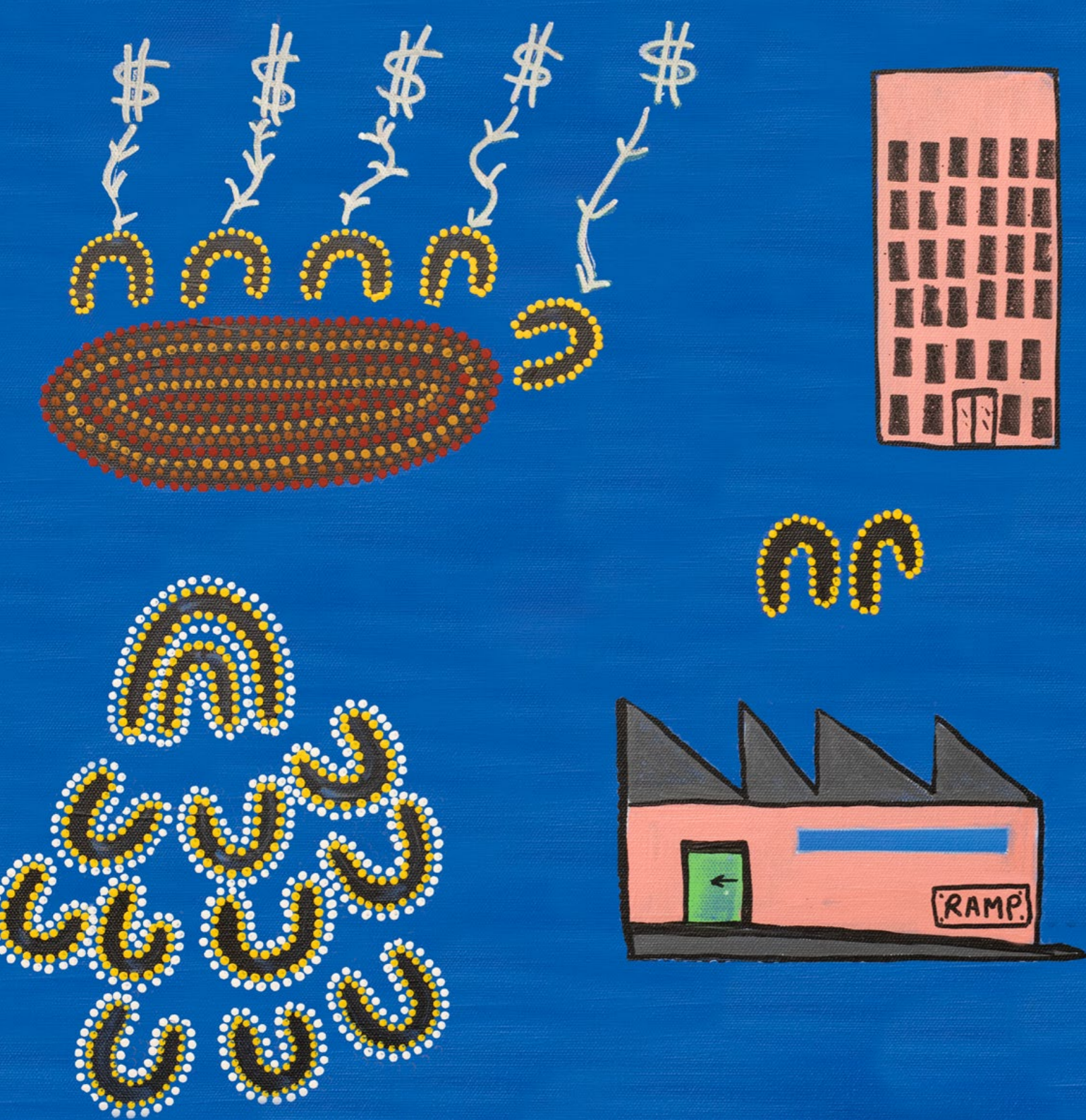


## ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

**You have the right to get a job that suits your skills, and to receive equal pay as others doing the same work.**

You have the right to access training and support that will help you to get a job.

Your workplace should be accessible and free from barriers that stop you from performing your job.



Watch the video



## Article 28

# ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

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**As a person living with a disability, you have the right to fresh food, such as fruit and vegetables and fresh meat and clean water.**

You have the right to a safe place to live, with people who will not harm you or steal from you.

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## PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE

**Once you reach the correct age, you have the right to participate in voting for who you would like as a leader.**

You can form a group of people that feel the same way about certain things as you; or you can join other groups.

You have the opportunity to be recognised as an Elder in your community, or to be elected in a government position to represent your community.

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## PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL LIFE

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**You have the right to attend men's and women's business, participate in ceremony and practice traditional ways such as dance, art and hunting.**

You have the right to the support and equipment you may need, to participate, just like other members in your community do.

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## CONTACT US

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