



Discrimination laws explained

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Anti-discrimination and equal opportunity laws aim to ensure that we can all participate in the public life of the community, free from certain forms of discrimination and harassment.

If someone complains that they have been unfairly treated, and it fits the definitions under the law, a complaint of discrimination can be lodged with the **Australian Human Rights Commission** or a state/territory anti-discrimination or equal opportunity agency. To fit the law, the complaint needs to have:

1. a detriment or less favourable treatment
2. a reason or type of discrimination (ground)
3. an area/place of public life (where discrimination occurred)
4. occurred within certain time limits.

The law sets time limits for lodging complaints. State and federal time limits are as follows:

Federal 12 months

ACT 2 years

NSW 12 months

NT	6 months
QLD	12 months
SA	12 months
TAS	12 months
VIC	12 months
WA	12 months

The law allows for discrimination in certain situations e.g. age restrictions in sport.

Federal, state and territory laws share many features but there are differences in the extent that sport is covered by these laws. [Click here for information about anti-discrimination laws in your state or territory.](#) [Contact your anti-discrimination or equal opportunity agency for more information.](#)

This section provides an overview on:

- [Types of discrimination](#)
- [Places of discrimination](#)
- [Exemptions \(when discrimination in sport is legal\)](#)

[Search for more resources relating to "Discrimination" in the Resources section](#)
