

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7QW2LE

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Submission Text:

My submission is that Australia is well overdue to have a Human Rights Act in place, in law. It is a way we can hold our heads up as a nation, prepared to stand by basic rights. These protections will be viable if enacted at the national level.

The existing legal and policy framework does not provide enough human rights protection as witnessed by the treatment of Asylum Seekers, and the mentally ill in privately run detention centres supposedly overseen by the federal government. There have been too many instances of homeless, indigenous and/or unwell people slipping through "the cracks" and being wrongly treated by public servants. Federal Government departments and services should be required to develop a human rights culture so that such mistakes do not occur.

Victoria is the only state that has a Charter of Human Rights and the impact has been positive, with minimal contention. Though the system could be abused this is simply the same as for other legislation and that is what we have judges for anyway, to decide upon such issues.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Zibell