

# National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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**Name:** Peter Hill

**Submission Text:**

There is practically no protection for human rights in Australia. Any modern constitution contains provisions guaranteeing freedom of speech and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, race or religion. A "Bill of Rights" is simply a band-aid to compensate for this glaring deficiency in our constitution. What we need is a new constitution. Having lived in Germany for 35 years and having experienced the extreme sensitivity of contemporary Germans in the face of any sort of abuse of power by governments, I would recommend the "basic law" of the Federal Republic of Germany as a model. The Germans had enough bitter experiences in the first half of the 20th century and designed an excellent constitution, which not only regulates relations between the federal government and the states (Länder), which our constitution does only imperfectly, it also defines all the human rights that a citizen enjoys and prohibits any sort of discrimination by police or organs of government.