

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7QU47M

Organisation: PhD Student

Submission Text:

I believe having human rights legislation in the constitution would be an essential step for more transparency within national governmental administration and as a guidepost for the way in which Australia acts towards other nations. Although there are several arguments against having this legislation (for example that it would limit rights by defining them) I believe that as the only rich democratic country to not have human rights legislation or charter, we currently leave ourselves vulnerable to corrupt government. We also need to ask whether by refusing human rights legislation, are we 'accepting' international acts of violence, corruption and genocide because we are failing to make a stand for our own citizens, much less fight against atrocities which contravene international rights. Australia is more than willing to partake of an international climate in which rights are protected but without our own human rights legislation, we are not willing to stand for a rights based approach at home. This means that the Australian government is less accountable for its actions and the Australian people are less empowered. I believe that in the current economic climate it is essential to define what social and economic rights, as well as civil and political rights, we possess as Australians.