

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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Submission Text:

In my opinion there is no need to have a "bill of rights" in Australia. We already are signatories to human rights agreements and standards, and these should form a basis for any issues to be addressed.

One of the major issues I see with a bill of rights is the limitations it can have on legislation going forward, and the lack of responsibility put on individuals if they simply believe something is their "right". We have seen in the U.S. the detrimental effect of this type of legislation, where individual rights have become more important than social responsibility.

One of the strengths of our system of justice is the ability for judges to review individual circumstances and use the reasonable man test in judgements. I believe a bill of rights will undermine this ability, and reduce the laws ability to be flexible according to prevailing community standards and individual circumstances.