

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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Submission Text:

To whom it may concern,
I believe that the considered creation of a Bill of Rights for Australian people is an important step in protecting the effectiveness of our democracy. While Australia operates seemingly well on the surface as a utilitarian culture, the fact is that we are too diverse to be subject to blanket uniform policies. There must be times when people have recourse to challenge decisions that restrict their rights to freedom, happiness and growth. For example, from a QLD'r perspective, I believe the move-on laws introduced not too long ago are discriminatory towards young people, homeless people and our indigenous population and that there are times when these powers ought not be invoked by law enforcement. I believe that there are occasions when the laws making it illegal for parents involved in child protection cases to speak to the media, are there to protect bureaucrats from public scrutiny following terrible decisions. I believe that a bill of rights will not only remedy these issues and others like them, once done, but will provide a framework for more careful and humanitarian application of policy, power and decision making across all states and territories. I believe that not having a senate in QLD is a danger. I believe that the federal system without checks and balances is a danger when the government of the day takes hold of the senate. I believe that there are times when an individual fighting against a bureaucracy or organisation for dignity needs the weight of the law behind it, and this is more important for the weak and the vulnerable than ever. I believe the case in Victoria where the government ruled that children with autism required no special attention in school until it was challenged on the grounds of human rights and defeated is an excellent example of that. I believe the time has come!

Cheers
Elizabeth