

# National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7RT8JU

**Name:** Gerard Lonergan

**Submission Text:**

I write to make a personal plea for enactment by the Commonwealth Government of Human Rights Legislation. I believe that it is beyond contention, that there has been an erosion of Human Rights that has diminished us as individuals and as a society. Our largely Common Law patchwork has not proven a sufficient bulwark against this erosion. I would hope that any such legislation would give effect, as a minimum, to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In the main, I support an emphasis being placed on the Executive and Parliament to give effect to Human Rights in the formulation and scrutiny of legislation. In this regard, I would offer the recent Victorian Charter as a useful model. However, I would still support, in the last resort, action being allowable by individuals in the courts. It would be pleasing to see a fuller expression of the doctrine of "Separation of Powers". I would also desire recognition to be given to the other ratified international covenant; that being on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. I can see merit in enumerating values such as public education, public health, fair workplace etc in such an Act of Parliament. It would, I believe, become an important social cohesive in defining who we are as a society. This could be done perhaps as a preamble to the Act, with accountability placed on the Executive to report on the achievement of these goals.