

## Submission - **National Human Rights Consultation**

I am grateful to have been born in Australia, and I trust this Consultation will contribute to enhancing and protecting the rights of all Australians. In taking this opportunity to submit, I will restrict my comments to two human rights topics – Access to Justice, and Health.

**Access to Justice** - My greatest concern is in respect to recent legislation supposedly introduced to keep us safe from terrorists. I have listened to public discussion on this issue, and am aware of the views of prominent civil rights lawyers.

I am distressed that our Government did little to protect the rights of Mamdouh Habib and David Hicks, held in Guantanamo - for an unreasonable period of time, in unacceptable conditions, and subjected to intolerable treatment - all without being charged with an offence, and ignorant of specific allegations being directed at them.

I have read Habibs book, "My Story, the tale of a terrorist who wasn't." I acknowledge he tells one-side of the story, and I'm not privy to the other side, however, his side of the story re-affirmed my belief that the recent spates of anti-terrorist legislation have deprived Australians of *Access to Justice*, and the said legislation needs stringent review.

**Health** -It appears this bundle of legislation is onerous and deprives all of us, of many basic human rights. It purports to protect us from those who *may* inflict damage and suffering, yet the damage, suffering and death that *is* inflicted by our medical and health systems is considerable, is noticeably ignored, and it needs to be reviewed.

I am of the belief that the health system is a flawed model. It encourages the population to place undue faith in professionals who are 'only human', and as a consequence of their human-ness, they will make mistakes.

Rather than attributing blame when something goes wrong, focus should be on improving the health system to reduce the chance of things going wrong; and moving from the limited view of *the current medical model* to a model inclusive of many and differing views and treatments.

Glen Slee