

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7RNC3P

Organisation: Immigrant's Memorial Association

Submission Text:

HUMAN RIGHTS

PRIVACY

I want to tell the committee that their Charter of Human Rights must include a Right To Privacy.

Everyday my privacy is invaded in many different ways. I receive phone calls I do not want promising me discounts or prizes for unstated commitments. These callers will not tell me from where they have my number and they persist to call even when I demand to have my name taken off their call list. These calls are a distraction that interferes with my chosen peaceful lifestyle.

Everyday I get unsolicited mail despite a notice 'no junk mail' on my post box. Newspapers are delivered that I don't want to read. They create a litter and disposal problem.

I get calls on my mobile phone that trap the unwary. I have tried to dismiss the unsubscribed promotional calls that pester me at work by getting rid of them quickly. By pressing the wrong button in haste I have been trapped into accepting expensive mobile phone services that my provider (Telstra) insisted I pay. I was unable to stop these services, week after week, until I took it to the telecommunications ombudsman and the matter was resolved in my favour. But they are still pestering and threatening me.

I get sexual enhancement advertisements emailed to me daily and am powerless to stop them. This is extremely annoying. I also get propositions from females in Russia but don't know why or how to stop them.

Would you please make these invasions of my privacy illegal and provide mechanisms for enforcement.

COMMUNITY

I want to tell the committee that their Charter of Human Rights must include a Right To Community.

Brisbane City Council provides few community facilities and services other than roads and buses. I would like to live in a community that shares public space, a car, a laundry, a kitchen, a television, a computer and other equipment. In short, I want to be valued as a community member rather than as an individual consuming unit. However, planning laws and corporate body regulations make such a lifestyle almost impossible. This is an infringement of my Right To Community.

FAIR TREATMENT

I want to tell the Committee that their Charter of Human Rights must include a Right To Fair Treatment.

In December 2008 the Queensland Government (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Paul Lucas) 'called-in' an application to develop Yungaba Immigration Depot in Brisbane from the Planning and Environment Court where it was subject to appeal by the Yungaba Action Group (YAG) under Integrated Planning Act legislation. At that time YAG had sunk \$15,000 of members' funds into legal costs because they were confident of winning their appeal. However, after it was called-in and their protests ignored the government confirmed their action, despite obvious conflict of interest. An attempt was made to justify the 'call-in' as warranted by the State's need for a rapid decision. The only need for a rapid decision that has become apparent was their need to clear the matter before it became an election issue in Premier Anna Bligh's ward.

This was unfair treatment, on several counts. A Charter Of Human Rights must include a Right To Fair Treatment if citizens are to feel their concerns will be dealt with properly by legal processes. Legal processes should be placed beyond the reach of politicians and the 'Call-In' process taken over by the federal government.

Right to Culture

To have cultural heritage objects and buildings maintained and preserved , including planning restrictions on redevelopment of significant heritage buildings. Despite its popularity as a State shaper in the recent government icons competition, the Queensland Government allowed Yungaba to deteriorate and sold it to a developer who will destroy its cultural significance.