

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7NZ4R5

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Submission Text:

My comments concern two areas where the Australian Government has demonstrated actions that are incompatible with the protection of human rights.

Race discrimination:

The continued suspension of the Anti-Discrimination Act is a display of the governments' dismissal of the importance of the right of Australia's First Nation to live free from discrimination based on race. Any policy or legislation that requires the suspension of the Race Discrimination Act in order to be permissible is clearly in violation of international human rights. The newly elected federal government has a responsibility to ensure that Australia conforms to international human rights standards; to suspend the act is a miscarriage of justice.

Delays in signing United Nations agreements on discrimination for Indigenous peoples are another example of Australia's decline into optional human rights.

Sexuality discrimination:

It is incomprehensible to me what rationale has been used to justify the marginalisation and discrimination of a section of the population based on the gender of their chosen partner. There is no economic, legal, or social reason for the governments continued failure to recognise the relationships of homosexual couples. Denying the union of homosexual couples to be recognised and accorded equal privilege as those of their heterosexual counterparts another example of how Australia has opted for an optional commitment to human rights.

As an Australian citizen I am embarrassed by our governments continued haphazard approach to human rights. Human rights for every person regardless of race, gender, sexuality, financial position or religious belief should be the foundation for our society and be the privilege and responsibility of all Australians including our government elect.