

# National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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**Submission Text:**

It is a matter of urgency that Australia passes a human rights act. Without it Australia will continue on a path that utterly fails to formally recognise and protect the human rights of its inhabitants, whether they be citizens or simply residents.

We are only too well aware that Australia has been responsible for some terrible human rights abuses during its history as a nation. Some of them are recent, for example the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers in detention centres, the treatment of terror suspects, and the ongoing failure to provide remote Indigenous communities access to adequate health care and education.

I believe a human rights act should also include a clause on inter-generational equity. In light of the significant danger of climate change, it seems very clear that our actions today are capable of severely violating the human rights of future generations. This needs to be recognised as a priority.

A human rights act is essential to ensuring that abuses such as those that have occurred to date can be prevented in the future, irrespective of what political party is in power. It will allow us to extend good living standards, health, education and freedom from discrimination to everyone. It is also essential to protecting the most marginalised, vulnerable sections of our society, as well as future generations.