

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7R5A4H

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Submission Text:

A Charter or an Act would make it more difficult for a government to ride roughshod over liberties that the community accepts as already won.

Recent legislation justified in the cause of anti-terrorism is a case in point.

For this reason, any codified statement of human rights would be an improvement.

A Charter or Act would serve the purpose of acting as a reference for what is acceptable in terms of agreed community ideals and values.

An independent watchdog body would probably be the best way of ensuring adherence to these standards. However, legislation requiring all elected parliamentary representatives to conduct at least two, accessible, public consultations per year might also prove useful. This process would make it harder for parliamentarians to hide within the parliamentary election cycle.