

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7R4HW7

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Submission Text:

Hello,

I would like to express my concerns about what I see as some infringements of human rights in Australia.

To begin, I believe that the youth of this country are discriminated against in many areas, especially within social security, education and law enforcement. In Australia, youth are considered adults when they reach the age of 18, at this age they can vote, they can drink, they can smoke, they can fight in wars etc, but still when it comes to social security it is almost impossible for an under twenty-five year old student who doesn't even live at home to be classed as independant. The great majority of students in this country are under twenty-five years of age, yet none of these people can get AUSTUDY.

In addition to this I feel that the cultural and social rights of public school students is in jeopardy. Public school is considered by many as a secular alternative to religious private schools. Whilst religion should be a cultural right of every individual, in a secular country I think that it is wrong that Christianity is a favoured religion among public schools; many public schools have a spiritual guide, which is acceptable in itself, but to call this guide a 'Christian care worker' and deny access to such a position to anyone who is not Christian is wrong in my opinion, even if they're not funded by the state. If there is to even be spiritual education/guidance in public schools then it should not be Christian orientated, it should be inclusive of all the major religions and spiritual ideologies.

Trying to remain within the 20,000 character limit I would also like to express my concern over some other worries I have over human rights in Australia. I think that people in same-sex relationships are discriminated against by the law, as well as same-sex attracted would-be private school teachers (even after the eventual ammendments to the EO act). After the coming ammendments it is still allowable for Private schools to not hire teachers on the basis of their sexuality. In addition, the law discriminates against same-sex relationships in not allowing them the same rights as opposite-sex relationships, such as marriage. Also I think that with the new Centrelink changes in regards to same-sex relationships, people are having their privacy ignored. In a place where homophobia still remains rampant, the government is requiring anyone in a same-sex relationship getting social security to tell Centrelink, else they'll be breaking the law.

Other areas where I think that peoples' human rights are being infringed are health (people with mental illnesses are not properly taken care of by the government), illegal immigration (holding children in detention camps etc), homelessness (in a rich country like this there is no excuse to have so many homeless people), I am also wary of the proposed plans to blacklist websites from the public, to me that sounds very backwards.

Thank you, and I wish you the best of luck with the community roundtables