

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7S9V7C

Name: Andy Callow

Submission Text:

I wish to express my strong objections to the erosion of Australian freedoms which will take place if powers are taken from our elected government and given to unelected judges in the charter of rights legislation.

I don't wish to live in a society where my freedom to disagree with the choices, views and lifestyles of others is taken away. I do not wish to be tried and imprisoned because I think that something or someone is wrong and choose to say so.

There is currently a sinister and unworkable definition of tolerance which says that we must all agree with everyone else, and say so, in order to live in a harmonious society. But we need a new definition of tolerance which states that we can disagree with anyone about anything, we can criticise their choices, lifestyles and opinions, however, we must uphold and defend their freedom to make the choices we disagree with.

I come from a Biblical Christian tradition which teaches that we must show love and respect to those with whom we disagree. We must speak the truth, but in love. This doesn't mean remaining silent in fear or pretending we agree. It means saying something's wrong if we believe it to be so. But we must also be willing to die defending the rights of those who are making those wrong choices.

This is a workable definition of tolerance. It upholds freedom and also freedom to express our differences. It can apply to views on anything from sexuality to political opinions.

I would hate to see the introduction of a charter of rights which took away our freedom to be and speak differently.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Callow