

# National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7SA5E6

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**Submission Text:**

A Charter of Rights is something likely to have a massive impact on the way issues are treated, viewed and investigated in our nation. The impact of such a Charter should not be hidden from the people, and the people should be given their voice in such a matter. A referendum is the only way such a Charter or Bill should be passed - on the majority vote. Our freedom is too important to allow anything so affecting as a Bill like this to pass without it being what the nation's populace actually wants and believes in.

Politicians are the voice of our people. They are elected by us, to speak for us. Appointed judges are not in a position to speak for Australia's people, and while they perform an unenviable job in our society they are not placed there to tell us what is and isn't good for us. The power to determine matters in relation to human rights should always sit squarely on the shoulders of elected officials, who are answerable to our citizens. Judges are not put in authority by the people, and their decisions cannot be overturned by the people. In a matter of human rights, that is a dangerous amount of power to give to someone who does not answer to the people over whom they wield such power.

Other countries have lost freedoms due to such power being placed in the hands of appointed judges. They have been able to overturn rulings made democratically, by the people, in order to serve what they believe is a more important agenda. We cannot allow a Charter or Bill of Rights to take away our basic democratic freedoms - that allow our people to have their say (and have our voices heard). We are a free country, and we risk much by taking such things out of the hands of the people and placed into the hands of unelected judges.

A Charter of Human Rights is not going to increase Australia's freedoms. We enjoy one of the greatest free societies on the planet, and such a Charter, introduced without the voice of our people, merely undermines what it is that makes us Australians. We must not sell our freedom in order to appear to please others. What we have in place works - adding a bill won't improve things, but rather diminish our nation.

Where violations of human rights exist, specific legislation is needed. Not blanket legislation that can be applied to whichever situation appears, by judges acting on our behalf but without our voice to back them, and via whichever interpretation they believe applies. Australians need to have their say, and be allowed to continue to have their say, else we are nothing more than a people with the appearance of freedom.