

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7S3BZF

Name: Kerry Zwag

Submission Text:

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RE: proposal for an Australian Charter of Rights

To those who have the responsibility to guard our freedoms in Australia and govern its people wisely:

I write to express my deep concern over the government's consideration of a type of bill of rights for Australia.

This is a massive decision for our nation and therefore the government should first hold a referendum of the Australian people in conjunction with the next Federal election.

Personally I am convinced that that elected politicians and not individual judges need to have the authority to protect human rights in our country.

It seriously concerns me that judges who are not elected by the people of Australia would have the authority to make such significant decisions without being accountable to the people whom they are meant to represent. At least if the government makes an unwise human rights decision, it can be changed by the people. There is accountability built into the current system.

History has shown that in other countries, human rights charters have led to the will of the people expressed through their politicians being overturned by unelected judges. This is very alarming to me!

I cannot see how a charter of rights will improve the "freedoms" of the Aussie people. I am so thankful to live in a country that enjoys genuine freedom in so many ways and I honestly believe that a charter of rights will reduce and not improve our freedoms.

Rather than looking to a charter of rights to help protect freedom, it would be far wiser to use specific and tailored legislation when it is needed.

Please, I do not want to see us risk the wonderful freedom we enjoy in Australia. Do not go forward with this proposal for an Aussie Charter of Rights – it is a dangerous road to go down! I have three beautiful children and I only hope that the Australia they 'inherit' from us is as free as the one in which I live now.

Sincerely Yours

Kerry Zwag