

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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Submission Text:

My main concern about the proposal for a Bill of Rights has to do with how the power will shift from Government to Courts. At present I would reckon Australia is one of the most free countries in which to live. It is so because we have three levels of law making power and they are separated (the Executive, the Legislature, and Judiciary).

If these three groups are able to work independently they provide a balance and checks and balances. A Bill of Rights will put power into the hands of the Judiciary and we will have a system like the US where non elected representatives have way too much say in the making of laws.

I also fear that very vocal minority groups will be able to influence Courts and enact changes to Government policy when they have been unable to do so through the current system of Parliamentary elections. That is, if they can't get policy change through the ballot, they'll try to get it through the courts even if the vast majority of Australians have declared their opinion through the ballot box.

I am also fearful of increased religious intolerance - it appears that it is the agenda of some people (recent state legislation and legislation proposals) to remove the rights of churches to employ people of faith. A bill of rights i feel would actually remove freedoms we already take for granted.

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