National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7QWUWS

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Submission Text:

I would like to express my opposition to having a charter of human rights or a bill of rights in Australian law.

The main reason against having a charter of rights is that it is absolutely unnecessary. The current system has and does provide Australians with the necessary protection of human rights. The nation of Australia has always been considered a nation that enjoys freedoms and the protection of the rights of people.

A bill of rights does not guarantee protection of the rights of people. You only have to look at the example of Zimbabwe. They have a bill of rights that sounds fine on paper but in reality it has not stopped the abuse of people or the destruction of society and the environment. The late Harry Gibbs (former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia) summed it up perfectly when he said, “If society is tolerant and rational, it does not need a bill of rights. If it is not, no bill of rights will preserve it.”

Our rights are best protected by elected parliaments, not charters. This is simply because UNELECTED people such as judges can interpret the charter to mean what they want it to mean or think it to mean.

The concerns are that a statutory charter of rights could:
• create uncertainty by empowering judges to change the plain meaning of existing laws;
• transfer power from elected parliaments to unelected, unaccountable judges;
• allow bad decisions by United Nations committees to be used to overturn Australian laws;
• weaken rights we currently enjoy by expanding the meaning of other rights;
• enable criminals to exploit so-called rights to avoid or delay prosecution.

Do not allow our country to go down this unnecessary and potentially damaging path.

Maintain our current effective level of freedom. Do not be DECEIVED!!! A bill of rights will restrict our current freedoms not protect them.