

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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Submission Text:

Dear Friends

I see no need for a separate charter or bill of rights in Australia. All our rights are enshrined in common law, and the passage of time has thrashed out virtually all the wrinkles in this system.

To start again with a new bill of rights is really just re-inventing the wheel, and will be both costly to taxpayers, and time consuming. There is no need for either, especially now when the economic climate is tight, and there are far better things to do with taxpayer funds than contemplate a bill of rights.

I like our current system, where we have elected parliament as our legal guardians, and do not want the judiciary to decide what is right and wrong. Track records for judicial decisions is not wonderful, and appropriate checks and balances for human rights that we have in place now are preferable to a bill of rights overseen by the judiciary.

The existing protection of our rights through common law has stood the test of time, and proven that our rights can be protected through times of social change and development. An enshrined list of rights becomes a monster because of the difficulty in changing it as social needs change (and things do change), and I do not want such a bill of rights.

A bill of rights in its very essence implies a list of "wrongs" which cannot easily be documented without tedious argument, again a costly and time consuming issue. Also, the premise of such a bill is rarely stated: are things acceptable if they are not specifically forbidden? Or are they forbidden if not specifically stated as acceptable? I do not want to see our community getting caught in this bind, and taking years or decades to determine what is or is not acceptable. I do not want a bill of rights...