

# National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7T285T

**Name:** Donna Hensen

**Submission Text:**

I refer to the Declaration of Human Rights  
Article 1.

\* All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 5.

\* No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In my work capacity and as an Aboriginal woman and mother I have found that in Australia being Aboriginal immediately negates these articles. We are judged purely on our skin colour and because of this, we are still fighting for the same basic human rights that the rest of Australia take for granted. We do not have equal access to justice. We are targeted and harrassed by police for merely walking down the street. I have known of teenage boys being told to strip, bend over and lift their genitals by police officers who sat in their cars laughing. How much dignity do you think these boys were feeling? The Police should be accountable for their breaches of human rights and lack of duty of care.

We need a Charter of Human Rights that can be used as a benchmark of what is acceptable behaviour from all residents of this county especially those with power or authority who are prone to abusing it at the detriment of others.