

Human Rights Inquiry

Firstly I would like to thank you for this opportunity to have my say towards our Human Rights Bill of Rights. I believe we have some human rights but the older I become it is very obvious the little human rights we have are diminishing and with that makes me worry that while they diminish that we the people are having no part in that reduction, for example a referendum to make change, all we seem to have is elected politicians telling us the people that put them in power, what is good for us. Well for some ive seen laws being written that have gone towards dividing the community, which I believe all laws should be fair and based on principals of the whole community. Human Rights should be introduced in the State of Qld as a balance, as we don't have that at the moment, the one thing we have is the Parliamentary Process which was brought in after the Fitzgerald inquiry, but ive witnessed that political partys can and do by-pass such defenses, which were supposed to hold the political partys to account and protect the people, so it can be said this system is flawed. And in saying that makes the argument valid that we need to introduce Human Rights , as we all know Australia is signatory to many Human Right treaties

- UN Charter – ratified on 1 November 1945
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination – ratified on 30 September 1975
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – ratified on 13 August 1980
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – ratified on 10 December 1975
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – ratified on 28 July 1983
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – ratified on 8 August 1989
- Convention on the Rights of the Child – ratified on 17 December 1990
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families – not signed or ratified
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance – not signed or ratified
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – ratified on 17 July 2008
- Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – not considered
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – not considered
- Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty – ratified in part on 2 October 1990
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – not considered
- Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict – ratified on 26 September 2006
- Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography – ratified on 8 January 2007
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure – not considered

- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – signed on 19 May 2009 but not as yet ratified
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – not considered

As you can see all of these should be protecting us, yet they are not. There are many story of the disadvantaged people that are not being protected by these signed treaties. As Queensland does not have an upper house to allow balance to the governing. We have seen this many times when governments have majority in parliament they are able to do what they want, even if it is not in the good of the people. Then the high court has to be used, it should be used for many things but why should it be used when a Human Rights Bill could be a savior for us the people. Our governing forefathers would never have believed that the removal of the upper house would allow the majority dictatorship that followed, so again this is proof we the people of Qld need a Bill of Rights to give us another avenue for protection from unjust Governance and laws that can and are written to alienate a minority, at the cost to the tax payers money. Some rights I would like to see incorporated are:-

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Assembly
- Freedom to do what a person wishes if it does not harm others (even if other people think it is bad)
- A presumption of innocence until proven guilty

These are but just a few but there is no need to reinvent the wheel if we introduced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

As an example, we are seeing why we most desperately need a Bill of Rights with the inquiry into the VALD laws Mr Newman and the LNP put into place which they state only effected a certain type of people but in the real world has affected many people and for no crime, we have laws for all the crime but this law was introduced to create crime and criminals where there were none as our existing laws have and would, and have worked for many years. But with all that expense now we have Labor spending more mony to rewrite or introduce laws that for all we know are unconstitutional and can only be changed at great expense through the high court system. All this can be rectified by the introduction of a Bill of Rights as that bill would give a direction the law makers and keep them in a conduit that laws would be for all and fair and are able to work and not take away freedoms that we the people so rightly deserve. The political partys normally mention in their partys manifestos a human rights part, we are signatories of human rights treaties yet we don't abide by them as they have not been ratified, so I ask please introduce a Bill of Rights and encourage the use of Human Rights in Queensland as this can only make this state of Queensland even more of a great state to live in and for publicly elected Governments to lead by example with fair and reasonable governance in line with Human Rights. Thank You

Most Sincerely

Stephen Clancy