

# A Human Rights Act for Queensland

## It's time to have your say

Australia is the only liberal democracy without national human rights protection.

The ACT and Victoria have had their rights protected through legislation since 2004 and 2006.

Queensland's government is now giving you a say in how you would like your rights protected and whether we need a Human Rights Act.

This is an opportunity to make a positive change that could last generations.

### What would a Human Rights Act mean for me?

Your rights and the rights of other Queenslanders would be considered every time you and they come into contact with a state government agency including schools, hospitals, aged and disability services, housing services and child protection agencies.

A Human Rights Act would mean that if your rights were not properly considered you would have a way to challenge the injustice and obtain a remedy.

### Aren't my rights already protected?

Many of your rights are not currently protected in law in Queensland. For example – the right to freedom of speech, freedom of association and the right to be free from inhuman and degrading treatment are not protected in Queensland's law.

A Human Rights Act could protect things like your right to live with your family, your right to marry and have children, your right to education, services and healthcare, your right to work and your right to dignity – no matter who you are.

### More information

More information about the benefits of a Human Rights Act for Queensland is available on the Human Rights for Queensland campaign website [www.humanrights4qld.com.au/benefits](http://www.humanrights4qld.com.au/benefits).

### Have your say

The Queensland Government has invited all Queenslanders to have a say about a possible Human Rights Act. Your comments are due by **4.00pm on Monday 18 April 2016**.

[Complete the following form to have your say.](#)



Do you think that human rights are properly protected in Queensland?

Yes

Why?

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No

Why?

Child Protection Legislation acknowledges the requirement to appreciate and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture. Yet, when it comes to Cultural Considerations in Practice, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is not valued. Services within the Child Protection system are failing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and their families because of their lack of Cultural Awareness and Culturally Appropriate Processes. Those services that continue to deny their need to be Culturally Aware, is an indication of complete disregard for the Rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and their families.

Do you support the introduction of a Human Rights Act in Queensland?

Yes

Why?

In regard to the Child Protection System, to further improve the quality of the decision - making and hopefully exclude the personal ignorance that can impact a legislative recommendation/outcome.

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No

Why?

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If you answered "yes" to the Question above -

Can you think of a situation from your life or someone else's life that shows why Queensland needs a Human Rights Act?

A single non- indigenous parent caring for his children. separated mother is Aboriginal. Child Protection history indicates that children are living in an environment with a parent who has shown a disrespect for the children's Cultural Identity by his actions and demeaning behaviour. There is evidence of his use of racially derogitive abusive language toward his children, the children's mother, the mother's family and other people and services investigating, assessing and supporting the family. There is also evidence to suggest that this is having a significant emotional impact on the children. The Child Protection outcome had failed to identify emetional harm. I am of the opinion that this was due to the Child Protection Systems lack of Cultural Awareness and they not understanding how discrimination impacts on an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, whether a child or parent. This matter is currently being reviewed.



**Which rights should be protected?**

- Right to recognition and equality before the law
- Protection of family and children
- Right to life
- Right to participate in public life
- Protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- Cultural rights of ethnic religious or linguistic minorities
- Freedom from forced work
- Property rights
- Freedom of movement
- Right to liberty and security of person
- Privacy and reputation
- Humane treatment when deprived of liberty
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief
- Rights of children in the criminal process
- Freedom of expression
- Right to a fair hearing
- Peaceful assembly and freedom of association
- Protection of rights in criminal proceedings and against retrospective criminal law
- Right to be tried or punished not more than once.
- Right to housing
- Right to education
- Right to adequate health care
- Right to food
- A right to an adequate standard of living
- Right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Participation in cultural life

Your name: Stephen Tanner

Your mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

