

From: [David Ingram](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission for Queensland Parliament Human Rights Inquiry
Date: Sunday, 17 April 2016 8:31:08 PM

To The Research Director, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Parliament House,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry regarding the need for a Human Rights Act (*HR Act*) in Queensland. I make this submission as an individual and not on behalf of any organisation.

Unlawful discrimination, whether inadvertent or intentional, is an unfortunate reality when people deal with one another. In addition there are those that will take advantage or others or attempt to deprive others of freedoms that we implicitly take for granted.

There is no justification for discriminating on the basis of sex, marital status, religious beliefs or lack of religious belief, ethnicity, age, political opinion, employment status, family or sexual orientation. There are limited circumstances where discrimination on the basis of ability or for national security may be warranted, but these should be the exception and not the rule.

A HR Act should provide rights in addition to prevention of discrimination, in particular the right to freedom of thought, the right to privacy, freedom of movement throughout the state, the right to associate with who they wish, and the right to fair treatment when liberties are revoked by the state.

These rights, and more, are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris in 1948. These are not new rights, but need the power of legislation to be enforced.

Legislation that makes clear the expectations of society is an effective means of reducing discrimination, through education and enforcement. An HR Act should bind the crown and the public to do the right thing. Introduction of an HR Act presents an opportunity to review existing legislation and to amend where necessary to meet the today's expectations of society.

Queensland would do well to follow the lead of other jurisdictions to legislate these expectations in the form of a formal Human Rights Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

by email

Dr David Ingram
