

A Human Rights Act for Queensland Submission by Ryan Bryer

The Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

By email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Research Director

I would like to tell you why I think there should be a human rights act for Queensland based on my personal experience.

I was born in 1985, and grew up in Brisbane. Throughout my childhood I struggled with behavioural issues and anxiety. Doctors had told my mother that I would never be able to be educated.

In my last year of high school I was diagnosed with schizophrenia. I never took drugs or any substances; it was thought that it may be genetic in my family.

My mum stood by me and got me to where I am today, she fought for the support that I received throughout primary and high school. My mum helped me to get my first full time job at Mamre Association INC where I have been well supported and accepted into the Mamre Community. I get paid the same as any other staff member and I am extremely valued by Mamre.

If I didn't get the support that I have had from my mum then where would I be today? What safeguards were there to prevent my homelessness or for me being locked away in a mental institution.

Further into the future I won't have my mum to look after me, there are no laws to prevent me from being homeless, there are no laws that safeguard me to make sure I am fed and have the right nutrition, get the right medical care, have the right to my medication if I can't afford to pay for it, without my medication I couldn't even leave the house I would be frightened and afraid. There are no safeguards protecting my future.

This is sadly the same for many people with schizophrenia, and sadly a lot of other people are much more worse off than me, some people with schizophrenia have not even survived to the age of 30 which is my age currently.

Please consider myself and the people like me and think that it's not only human rights that you will be safeguarding but it's also thousands of people's futures in your hand.

Thank you for your consideration.

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