



Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland Inc

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The Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Colleague,

Submission with respect to a Human Rights Act for Queensland

Please accept this correspondence as the formal endorsement of this Human Rights Act submission prepared by the Soroptimist International Northern and Southern Queensland Branches (*SI*).

The Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland (*ILAQ*) has partnered with the Southern Queensland Branch of *SI* during the 2015-2016 period in relation to a number of other mutually beneficial initiatives. *ILAQ* has been very happy to offer an Indigenous perspective to their submission.

Accessibility and Enforceability measures

ILAQ welcomes a Statutory enactment, which adequately addresses and enforces Human Rights responsibilities in Queensland. *ILAQ* further acknowledges the successful enactment of Human Rights legislation in other Australian jurisdictions, notably Victoria.

ILAQ is particularly interested in ensuring that any Legislative Instrument for Human Rights in Queensland encompasses, practical enforcement measures – taking the instrument beyond one of mere aspirational intention to that of being respected, considered and well regarded. An instrument with such accountability measures, in our view would also require equitable access mechanisms to ensure it is available to everyday Queenslanders. This accessibility is never more imperative than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – being that we continue to be the largest consumer group of Justice and Court services in Queensland and indeed across the Nation.

The importance of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective

ILAQ agrees with the views included in the submission which reflect the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

ILAQ note in particular the importance of providing a voice to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander women to be heard, allowing their views to be appropriately considered. ILAQ further suggests that a Human Rights instrument in Queensland could provide further impetus for the Legal Profession, legal service providers and other legal consumers to make concerted efforts toward understanding an Indigenous perspective.

ILAQ appreciate the opportunity to provide an authoritative contribution garnered through lived experiences, from a uniquely Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Linda Ryle
President
Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland