

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Human Rights Bill 2018 Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 14 November 2018 2:26:48 PM

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Dear Committee,

The protection of human rights is essential to any true democracy. If such rights are not protected, that creates a precedent for governments to disregard them and become authoritarian.

As the son of immigrants who both grew-up in dictatorships, I was taught how dangerous totalitarian states can be and how easily a democracy can change into a dictatorship. Worryingly, some of these warning signs such as laws which restrict journalists' right to access information (I am referring to the Border Force Act which criminalises speaking about conditions in off-shore detention centres) and cases where whistle-blowing has been met with prosecutions (such as with Witness K and his lawyer being tried in a secret court) have begun to creep into our legal system and this is unacceptable: we are Australia, not China or Iran.

A bill of rights gives us all confidence that our government (even if it only be the state government) cares about our rights and basic dignity as human beings. Despite this bill only applying within Queensland, it would encourage the Federal Government to follow suit. Examples of previously state-based legislation creating federal change include the introduction of registration-schemes for same-sex couples. Once enough states implemented them, this put enough pressure on the Federal Government to legalise same-sex marriage.

Finally, we do not need to look overseas to see how easily a government can disregard and trample on citizens' rights. During the premiership of Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the separation of powers was significantly eroded which led to Queensland receiving the reputation of being a police state. When reading reports from the era, his hold on power closely resembles that of Francisco Franco and Juan Perón, the dictators who controlled Spain and Argentina when my father and mother were growing-up.

As such, I hope that this bill receives full support from everyone on the Committee as it provides protection for the most essential pieces of democracy.

Yours sincerely,

Marcel Reverter-Rambaldi

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