



16 November 2018

Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Madam

Re Human Rights Bill 2018

I write in relation to the Committee's consideration of the recently introduced Human Rights Bill 2018. While I support the concept of and need for a human rights act for Queensland, I am concerned that the Bill in its current form may not extend to protect particular rights of public service workers in the State.

I draw to the Committee's attention the treatment of public service workers by the former LNP Government between 2012 and 2015. It is well known that under the former Government the jobs of thousands of public service workers were cut and a range of important workplace conditions and protections were removed from those who remained.

I particularly note that for many of those who were made redundant, evidence was provided to two separate Senate committee inquiries which indicates there were some who appear not to have been accorded the due process to which they were entitled with established procedures and steps under relevant public service directives not being followed in a number of instances.¹

As it stands, the potential remains for public service workers to be similarly treated in the future. To prevent such an occurrence, I would request that the Committee give consideration to recommending the inclusion of another suitable provision within the Bill to ensure the right of public service workers to due process in such circumstances is respected and adhered to by decision-makers.

Yours sincerely

Don Willis

¹ See The Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee, *Conditions of employment of state public sector employees*, June 2013, p. 6, and various submissions to the inquiry such as submission numbers 4, 18, 22/1, 24, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39

Report available at:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_Employment_and_Workplace_Relations/Completed_inquiries/2010-13/publicsectoremployees/report/index;

Submissions available at:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_Employment_and_Workplace_Relations/Completed_inquiries/2010-13/publicsectoremployees/submissions.

Also see The Senate *Select Committee on Certain Aspects of Queensland Government Administration related to Commonwealth Government Affairs Report*, March 2015, pp. 13, 17-18 and various submissions to the inquiry such as submission numbers 3, 81 and 115

Report available at:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Certain_Aspects_of_Queensland_Government_Administration/Certain_Aspects_Qld_Admin/Report;

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