



Disability Law
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Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

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

Dear Committee Members,

Human Rights Bill 2018 ('the Bill')

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback on the Bill.

Disability Law Queensland ('DLQ') is a non-profit legal service that assists people with disability and their families to plan for the future, assert their rights and access justice.

In our work we hear about the interactions that people with disability and their families have with government and service providers. Regularly our clients are in contact with the Public Trustee of Queensland, the Office of the Public Guardian, child protection services, public housing providers, the police and disability service providers. While many of these interactions are positive, there are times when people are not treated with respect and dignity.

It is unacceptable that currently in Queensland government services can be delivered without consideration of human rights.

We support the introduction of the Bill because it will mean that when people with disability and their families interact with public services there will be a guarantee that proper consideration will be given to, for example, the right to be free from inhumane and degrading treatment, the right to family, equality before the law and the right to privacy.

It is important that the Bill is enforceable. We welcome the introduction of a complaints mechanism and encourage the Committee to recommend that the Government amends the Bill to prescribe that the first review of the Bill should include consideration of whether a direct cause of action and damages should be made available.

Yours faithfully,
Disability Law Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John'.

Tom Condon
Director/ Board Member