



Submission to the:

**Queensland Parliament Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
regarding the Human Rights Bill 2018 (the Bill).**

Submitted on:

25 November 2018

Submitted by

**Queensland and Northern New South Wales Branch Committee of Amnesty
International Australia**

Contact:

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About Amnesty International

Amnesty International is the world's largest independent human rights organisation, comprising more than seven million supporters in more than 160 countries.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement to promote and defend all human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights instruments. Amnesty International undertakes research focused on preventing and ending abuses of these rights.

Amnesty International is impartial and independent of any government, political persuasion or religious belief.

Amnesty International Australia does not receive funding from governments or political parties.

About the Queensland and Northern New South Wales Branch Committee of Amnesty International Australia

The Queensland and Northern New South Wales Branch Committee works with members and supporters in Queensland to support human rights activism and leadership. There are 28 active Amnesty International community groups in Queensland across both regional and metropolitan areas.

In 2017, 78,000 people in Queensland supported Amnesty International human rights campaigns.

The Queensland and Northern New South Wales Branch Committee also contribute to strategic planning for Amnesty International Australia's vision, campaign priorities, and policies.

Key feedback

The Queensland and Northern New South Wales Branch Committee:

1. welcomes the introduction of the Bill as the committee believes passing of the Bill will provide a fairer and more inclusive community for all Queenslanders by creating an overarching human rights dialogue across all arms of government;
2. supports the passing of the Bill as soon as possible to provide enforceable protection of human rights for all Queenslanders;
3. believes enforceability is critical to create a fairer and more inclusive community for all Queenslanders, particularly for people who are more vulnerable to experiencing violations of their human rights, including;
 - children;
 - people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander;
 - people living with disability and mental illness;
 - people in later stages of life; and
 - people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex; and

4. commends the government and strongly supports the inclusion of a complaint mechanism in the Bill, and is also supportive of the Bill being amended to enhance the complaint process through the inclusion of a mechanism for a human rights complaint to be taken to a court or tribunal.

Conclusion

The Queensland and Northern New South Wales Branch Committee of Amnesty International Australia thanks the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration of this submission. We anticipate this submission will inform the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's recommendations.

The Queensland and Northern New South Wales Branch Committee look forward to the Bill being passed by Parliament in early 2019.