



400 George Street, Brisbane  
PO Box 13281 George Street Brisbane Qld 4003

[www.oho.qld.gov.au](http://www.oho.qld.gov.au)  
133 OHO (133 646)

26 November 2018

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Ms Renee Easten  
Committee Secretary  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Easten,

**Human Rights Bill 2018 – call for submissions**

I refer to the Committee's letter of 2 November 2018 calling for submissions in relation to the Human Rights Bill 2018 (the Bill).

Firstly, I would like to express my support for the Bill's objectives and for the introduction of a Human Rights Act in Queensland.

I note that this Bill envisages a cross-over in jurisdiction between the Human Rights Commissioner ('the Commissioner') and the Health Ombudsman, facilitated by section 66.

Section 73(2) provides for the Commissioner to refer a matter to the Health Ombudsman, and I understand that section 74 of the Bill provides that the Commissioner may enter into an arrangement about how referrals will occur and which matters should be referred between the entities. In relation to the referral of matters from the Commissioner to the Health Ombudsman, I ask the Committee to give consideration to one minor point, that being including a provision that requires the Commissioner to consult with the Health Ombudsman before referring a matter. This would be a similar requirement, for example, that the Health Ombudsman has prior to referring a matter to another agency (see section 92(3) of the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*). I consider that such a requirement would enhance the efficient and effective operation of both agencies in managing complaints.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of the merits of this suggestion.

The Committee is welcome to contact me via email at [REDACTED] or via telephone on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Andrew Brown  
Health Ombudsman