

Submission into -
The Qld Bill of Rights 2018

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A Bill of Rights should espouse Equality

Q.: When is discrimination not discrimination?

A.: "Measures taken for the purpose of assisting or advancing persons or groups of persons disadvantaged because of discrimination do not constitute discrimination".

- Qld Human Rights Bill 2018 section 15 (5) Civil and Political Rights - Recognition and equality before the law.

To redefine "discrimination" as not being discrimination does not match what it is in the real world, is absurd, and conveys no useful meaning.

This reminds me of the famous George Orwell quote from 1984 -

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others".

This gives a whole new meaning to the following "Rights" supposedly guaranteed under Queensland's proposed Bill of Rights -

- (2) Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination.
- (3) Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.
- (4) Every person has the right to equal and effective protection against discrimination.

These are not the only sections that pretend to provide protection against discrimination.

This is NOT the EQUALITY that one expects from a Bill of Rights.

This is not the only confusing / misleading term in this Bill.

I would like to include the following Media Release from Cherish Life Qld with reference to Right to Life (section 16) and Protection from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (section 17):

Pro-life Lobby Slams Labor Government's Height Of Hypocrisy In New Law For A 'right To Life'

31 October 2018

The pro-life lobby has accused the State Labor Government of extreme hypocrisy in presenting a Human Rights Bill, which includes a "right to life", to Parliament today.

"Just a fortnight ago the Attorney-General and 49 of her MP peers wildly celebrated the passing of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, which legalised abortion until birth. They showed gross contempt for human life that day." Ms Teeshan Johnson, executive director of Cherish Life Queensland said.

"Two weeks later they present a Human Rights Bill to Parliament which includes a 'right to life'. Do they really think they can convince the Queensland public they actually value human life?"

"The Human Rights Bill also contains a right to 'protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment', yet the abortion Bill they passed allows abortion up to birth with no requirement for pain relief for the unborn human being.

"There is a body of medical and scientific evidence to suggest that the unborn face enormous pain during an abortion from as early as 16 weeks gestation. Yet this Government didn't see fit to have a requirement to anaesthetize the unborn before an abortion, so in effect it has legislated for torture, cruel and degrading treatment of unborn human beings at any stage of pregnancy.

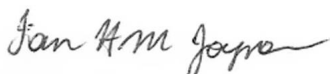
"Their actions show they support torture and inhumane treatment of human beings, as long as they aren't born.

"The Human Rights Bill supposedly protects freedom of conscience, but not in the case of a doctor with a conscientious objection to abortion, who now is forced to refer for abortion under the brutal new abortion law.

"For the Attorney- General and her peers to pretend they care about life is hypocrisy at its most vile."

If the Termination of Pregnancy Bill is an example of how this proposed Bill of Rights provides for the Right to Life and Protection from Torture etc then this Bill does not provide the Bill of Rights that we as Queenslanders are expecting, nor need.

The above are only a few examples of deficiencies and double-speak within this Bill.



Ian Joyner



26 November 2018