



From: Linda []
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2004 12:37 PM
To: LCARC
Subject: Submission for Proposed Preamble to the Constitution of Queensland

The Research Director,
Legal Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House,
George Street,
BRISBANE, Qld, 4001

26th August, 2004

Here is as much of a wish-list for the Preamble to the Queensland Constitution as anything.

An expression for a True *Fair Go* for the citizens of Queensland.

I believe that a Preamble to the Queensland Constitution should not be hamstrung by any Federal Preamble, [or for that matter neither should a Queensland Constitution], and not have the courage to spell out the ideals its citizens aspire to, even if those be loftier than any *affirmation of certain widely-held values* assumed to be for the whole of Australia.

In other words have the courage to tackle any "*sacred cows*" not addressed Federally.

Thus, as well as the small changes in the suggested Preamble circulated I include four (4) other points.

My suggestion as regard supplied suggested text -

Thus that which the QCRC further recommended that the preamble should "*affirm certain widely held values*"; and in that spirit in this regard it should continue:

2nd part, Paragraph 2 reads

We declare that we respect the equality of all persons under law, regardless of class faith, gender, origin or race, and recognise the contribution they make to the State of Queensland.

Where I suggest should read -

We declare that we respect the equality of all persons under law, ~~regardless of class faith, gender, origin or race,~~ and recognise acknowledge the contribution they make to the State of Queensland.

(I believe the words "all persons", in its simplicity, is all inclusive and opens itself up to less risk of later "interpretations" of any of the sub-categories listed)

(I believe "acknowledge" is a stronger more affirming term than the more watery term "recognise" used here)

I further also suggest the following be included in any Preamble to the Queensland Constitution.

We declare Justice for all in the Legal system by ensuring "Truth in Sentencing" and "Equal access and Legal representation regardless of fiscal means or socioeconomic background of appellants".

We declare the assurance of a Penal System which will best serve Queensland citizens by ensuring reduced Recidivism by providing appropriate rehabilitation and any other psychological or educational programs for inmates; by ensuring those guilty of lesser crimes are not exposed to more hardened and criminally intent or experienced criminals and by ensuring the integrity of inmates self-respect, and therefore capacity for rehabilitation, by preserving their Right to Vote.

We declare that our Queensland Police Service will equally strive for "Crime Prevention" and "Protection from Crime" for the people of Queensland as much as "Law Enforcement".

We declare that Queensland will be a place where, at least Queensland based Press and Media, will represent ALL aspects of Queensland society, strives to be always as Comprehensive as possible, non-self representing and free of vested interests especially those harbored in biased news-room editorial policies.

We declare that Queensland shall be a place where the interests of all are ensured by, at the very least, providing crisis/emergency housing for those who are people of the street, be they young or old.

Submitted by,
Linda Kerri Petrie
Counselor, Cert Lvl IV A&WPT,
Consultant,
Independent Activist

Mobile: 0421 899 368
Wk: 07 3390 4338
Fax [phone 1st] 61 07 3390 4338
E-Mail: brislinda@froggy.com.au
Website manager:
LGBTI Spirituality web site
<http://www.cwpp.slg.qld.gov.au/spirit>
Coordinator LGBTI Preconference Workshop,
Suicide Prevention Australia's
10th Annual Conference -
"Finding the meaning to sustain life...the place of Spirituality in suicide prevention"
Brisbane Convention Centre,
June 12-15, 2003
www.suicidepreventionaust.org/

Former Founder and President of The Australian Transgender Support Association of Queensland, 1991-93.