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LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMMITTEE

In answer to the question : Should Queensland adopt a Bill of Rights?

I will attempt to answer this in relation to : ISSUES PAPER NO. 3 September 1997

From Table 2 - Many of the rights included in the EARC Bill are already in place without need for legislation.

Individual Rights and Freedoms are safeguarded by our present system.

If there are to be any changes, I believe there needs to be an understanding of the principle that with rights, almost always, come responsibilities.

### SUBMISSION TO EARC

Regarding the right to freedom from discrimination in particular on the grounds of :

- sex
- socio-economic status
- age
- other natural characteristics
- sexuality
- political, religious or ethical belief or activity
- mental or physical disability
- marital or parental status
- medical condition

- **but steps taken to advance a person on a ground stated are not discrimination**

I suggest that allowing a person to be advanced on any of the above grounds is discriminatory, and could even prove dangerous.

- In a case of mental or physical disability /medical condition it would be necessary to ensure that the condition does not interfere with satisfactory and safe performance of the duties required in a particular job for which a person applies.
- Political, religious or ethical **activists** may be unsuitable for positions of influence around children for example. There need to be safeguards here, and also to protect our social structure from activists who may attempt to engage in anti-Australian activities from within our Public Service.
- Everyone who holds strong political and/or religious opinions does not attempt to misuse positions of trust to advance these opinions, but unfortunately there are many who do.
- While it is unfair and unreasonable to disallow employment of teachers and other childrens workers on the ground of sexual preference, those persons should not be permitted to use that position to covertly "educate" children in areas contrary to their own family's values.
- Paedophiles so often choose occupations around children. Protection of the child is paramount even if it "discrimates" against the adult.

It is unacceptable to covertly "educate" a child in "freedom of sexual preference," political or ethical values contrary to his/her own family values .

Basically I believe it is the right of every family to instil its own value system into each family member free of interference from the state. I acknowledge that where the family background is one of abuse and/or neglect some intervention becomes necessary and that its implementation is a delicate and difficult matter.

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### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

- Reasonable access to social welfare. Those accessing the system also have the responsibility not to abuse it.
- Reasonable housing. Those relying on Public Housing also have responsibilities to take reasonable care of that housing. It should not be the responsibility of the taxpayer to continually pay for wilful damage to that housing. Those occupying Public Housing also have the responsibility to pay the (very low) rent set for them.
- With the right to gainful work comes the responsibility to work effectively.
- The right to withdraw one's labour, also carries the responsibility not to do so frivolously, and the recognition that doing so would permit the employer to replace that employee, if he/she so choses.

### Freedom of family structure

- the right to marry / live in a defacto relationship is universally accepted.
- the right to establish a family regardless of marital status is accepted, though this should include the responsibility of supporting that family.
- *the right and responsibility of an adult female to control her own fertility and*
- *the right to decide freely on the number and spacing of children and reasonable access to information/education and means to enable access of this right. This does not in any way include the right to terminate the life of any of her children born or unborn.*

### CIVIL LIBERTIES

Much has been said recently about the infringement on personal freedom caused by the use of surveillance cameras in public places. They appear to be an unfortunate necessity. People concerned about having their behaviour in public viewed by others, perhaps should modify the way they behave in public.