




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Human Rights Act

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.44 am): I am pleased to announce that the first stage of Queensland's historic Human Rights Act 2019 will begin on 1 July. On 1 July the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland will become the Queensland Human Rights Commission. Its functions to provide information, education and promote understanding, acceptance and public discussion of human rights will start. The current Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Scott McDougall, will become the Human Rights Commissioner.

Queensland's first Human Rights Commission is a momentous achievement and one that every Queenslander should celebrate. Our vision is for a modern, fair and responsive Queensland where we respect, protect and promote human rights. The act is a clear decision by the Palaszczuk government to realise this vision. We will also be joining Commonwealth and common law jurisdictions that have long protected human rights in legislation, including the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand as well as Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

The remainder of the Human Rights Act 2019 is expected to come into force on 1 January 2020, fulfilling our election commitment. From 1 January 2020 public entities will have a responsibility to respect, protect and promote the human rights of individuals and act in a way that is compatible with human rights when delivering services and interacting with the community. This means fairer laws, policies and practices in the government's day-to-day dealings with the community. From 1 January the interpretive role of the courts will also commence and the Queensland Human Rights Commission will have the power to receive and conciliate human rights complaints. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved to protect the human rights of Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will continue to champion the human rights of Queenslanders in all that we do, delivering fairer and more responsive services for the community.