

# A Human Rights Act for Queensland

## It's time to have your say

Australia is the only liberal democracy without national human rights protection.

The ACT and Victoria have had their rights protected through legislation since 2004 and 2006.

Queensland's government is now giving Queenslanders a say in how they would like their rights protected and whether we need a Human Rights Act.

Organisations and individuals can have their say by making a submission to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee by no later than 4pm on Monday 18 April 2016.

This information sheet and associated resources are designed to provide community organisations that support the introduction of a Human Rights Act with a step-by-step guide to making a submission to Queensland's Human Rights Inquiry.

### STEP 1

Read:

1. Our short briefing paper that outlines what a Human Rights Act is, the benefits and how it works in other places.
2. Our factsheets that illustrate how a Human Rights Act would benefit specific groups of people.
3. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's terms of reference and guide to making submissions.

### STEP 2

Prepare short answers to as many of the following questions that your organisation has a view on.

**Does your organisation support the introduction of a Human Rights Act for Queensland?**

Support for a Human Rights Act for Queensland

Insert answer

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Support for a Human Rights Act for Queensland

Insert answer

**Does your organisation have a view about the effectiveness of the current protection of human rights in Queensland?**

Current protection of human rights in Queensland

Insert answer

**Has your organisation come across any situations that demonstrate the need for a Human Rights Act in Queensland? If so, please provide de-identified outlines of these situations.**

Situations from our work that demonstrate the need for a Human Rights Act in Queensland

Insert answer

**Can you comment on the operation and effectiveness of human rights legislation in Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and internationally?**

Our views about the effectiveness of human rights legislation in other jurisdictions

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)



**What does your organisation see as the benefits of a Human Rights Act for Queensland?**

The benefits of a Human Rights Act for Queensland

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)

**Which rights should be protected in a Human Rights Act for Queensland?**

The rights that should be protected in a Human Rights Act for Queensland

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)

**If a Human Rights Act is introduced, who should be required to act compatibly with it?**

The application of a Human Rights Act in Queensland

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)

**If a Human Rights Act is introduced, what impact should it have on the development of new laws?**

The influence of a Human Rights Act on the development of new laws in Queensland

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)



**If a Human Rights Act is introduced how should it impact the work of courts and tribunals in Queensland?**

The influence of a Human Rights Act on courts and tribunals in Queensland

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)

**If a Human Rights Act is introduced how should complaints about breaches of human rights be resolved?**

Resolving human rights issues using a Human Rights Act in Queensland

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)

**If a Human Rights Act is introduced what kinds of outcomes should people be able to obtain when their human rights are breached?**

Remedies that should be available using a Human Rights Act in Queensland

Insert answer (See our briefing paper for information that should assist you to answer this question)

**STEP 3**

Prepare a letter on your organisation's letterhead with the subject "Human Rights Inquiry" addressed to:

The Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Copy and paste the responses to the questions outlined in Step 2 above into your letter – the underlined sentences are suggested headings to be used to structure your letter.

Make sure that a person who has authority to provide the views of your organisation signs the letter. Include the details of the level of authority of that person, their mailing address, email address and daytime telephone contact number.

The letter you have prepared is your organisation's submission to the Human Rights Inquiry.

**STEP 4**

Submit your submission by:

Emailing it to: [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

OR

Sending it to: The Research Director

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Parliament House

Brisbane QLD 4000

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee must receive submissions by no later than 4:00pm on Monday 18 April 2016.

