

On 25 November 2011, Federal Parliament passed the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act. There is no reference to this act in either the Explanatory Notes or the proposed legislation. The Human Rights legislations requires: "that each new Bill introduced into Federal Parliament is accompanied by a Statement of Compatibility of the proposed law's compliance with Australia's international human rights obligations." (HLRC)

I would have thought that amendments to the Telecommunications Bill would have required a Statement of Compatibility to ensure that the legislation complies with Article One and Article 25 of the International Convention on Human Rights.

Article One ensures that people have "peaceful enjoyment of property" and Article 25 ensures that:

- (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
- (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

At every public meeting which I have attended on the subject of the location of telecommunication towers, participants have expressed grave concerns for the safety and wellbeing of children both living and unborn.