

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Inquiry into Freedom of Speech – Receipt of submissions extended to 23 December 2016

On 8 November 2016, and pursuant to the section 7(c) of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*, the Attorney-General referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights an inquiry into whether the operation of Part IIA of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) imposes unreasonable restrictions on freedom of speech; whether the complaints-handling procedures of the Australian Human Rights Commission should be reformed and related matters. The full terms of reference for the inquiry are available on the committee's inquiry website.

The committee will conduct a hearing on 12 December 2016 and further hearings are planned for late January 2017, with the possibility of additional hearings to be held in early February 2017.

The closing date for submissions was set as Friday, 9 December 2016; however, the committee has **agreed to accept submissions until 23 December 2016** if an extension is required.

Important information about making submissions is available on the inquiry website.

The Attorney-General requested the committee report by **28 February 2017**.

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