

Parliamentary Inquiry into Freedom of Speech

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 the following two matters for inquiry and report by **28 February 2017**:

- whether the operation of Part IIA of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) (including sections 18C and 18D) impose unreasonable restrictions on freedom of speech; and
- whether the complaints-handling procedures of the Australian Human Rights Commission should be reformed.

Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, Ian Goodenough MP, encouraged stakeholders and interested parties to make submissions addressing the specific terms of reference referred by the Attorney-General.

"The committee will endeavour to consult as widely as possible within the parameters of the referral," he said.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are available on the inquiry website.

The closing date for submissions is **9 December 2016**. Important information about making submissions is available on the committee's inquiry website.

The committee expects to hold public hearings in relation to the inquiry. Anyone considering making a submission should note that it is possible that the committee will commence public hearings prior to the closing date for receiving submissions. Additional information about hearings will be made available on the committee's inquiry website.

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