



# *Union of Australian Women*

(VICTORIAN SECTION)  
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28 APR 2003

Peter Hallahan  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Room S1.61 Parliament House  
Canberra 2600 fax 02 6277 5794

Dear Sir,

Please find attached the submission of the Union of Australian Women on the proposed changes to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Anne Sgro". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Anne Sgro  
National Co-ordinator

## **Statement of Union of Australian Women on proposed changes to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.**

The Union of Australian Women opposes the proposed amendments to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as outlined by the Federal Government in its Australian Human Rights Commission Legislation Bill 2003.

We strongly object to the renaming of the Commission and believe the words Equal Opportunity must not be eliminated.

We oppose any restriction of the principles upon which the Commission was established and any restriction of its current functions.

The Commission must remain an independent body which has the freedom to carry out its functions of monitoring and promoting Australia's compliance with our human rights obligations under international agreements. It must also retain the ability to intervene in a court case raising a human rights principle.