

**Clifford, Julia (SEN)**

**From:** Frank & Anne Rasenberger [axeliz@ozconnect.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 April 2003 9:56 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into the provisions of the Australian Human Rights Commission  
**Importance:** High



25 Toowoomba Road  
Crow's Nest, Qld 4355  
(07) 4698 1309

Dear Sir/Madam

Please re-consider the revisions that are being considered, in regard to the Australian Human Rights Commission.

The proposed changes will lead to the demise of the effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission by reducing the number of commissioners from five to three, and generalising their work. For example, none of the three Human Rights Commissioners would have specific responsibility for race discrimination or for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice. The implications are that the Human Rights Commission will effectively be turned into a government lap-dog by forcing it to seek the Attorney General's permission BEFORE it can investigate any issue (e.g, refugees, indigenous people, people with mental health or other issues would never get this government's OK).

More time is needed to consider the implications of these changes, in order to make a balanced decision.

Yours faithfully,  
Anne & Frank Rasenberger  
(Social Justice Commission, Toowoomba)

26/04/2003