

Clifford, Julia (SEN)

From: David McKelvey [david@mckelvey.net]
Sent: Thursday, 24 April 2003 3:11 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Australian Human Rights Commission Legislation Bill 2003

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The Secretariat
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Room S1.61, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA



Dear Committee Members

I write regarding the Australian Human Rights Commission Legislation Bill 2003.

Having read the Bill and Explanatory Memorandum I wish to express my disagreement with the proposed changes to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

I believe that the changes will lead to the demise of the effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission by reducing the number of commissioners, and generalising their work. For example, none of the Human Rights Commissioners will have specific responsibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice, which I believe is of utmost importance.

I also believe that the Bill will remove the independence of the Human Rights Commission by forcing it to seek the Attorney General's permission before exercising its power to seek leave to intervene in court proceedings

In my opinion the Bill should be rejected by the Senate in its entirety

Yours faithfully

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