

Clifford, Julia (SEN)

From: Graham & Monique Bond [thebonds@myplace.net.au]
Sent: Monday, 28 April 2003 8:27 AM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: proposed changes to Human Rights Commission



28th April 2003

Inquiry into the provisions of the Australian Human Rights Commission
Legislation Bill 2003

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to protest strongly against two proposed changes to the Human Rights Commission.

1. The proposal that the Commission can only investigate an issue AFTER it has obtained the permission of the Attorney General is ridiculous. It means that the Commission is no longer independent as it has to ask for the Government's approval before it can look at any possible Human Rights abuses. Sadly, nowadays, many human rights abuses are committed, or allowed, by Governments and it is obvious that the Attorney General will not give permission for investigation of things like 'the asylum seekers' detention, over-imprisonment of indigenous Australians, treatment of people with disabilities, etc etc.

2. The reduction of Commissioners from five to three must lead to a reduced capacity for investigation and for effective work on Human Rights Issues. I also think that there should be specific responsibilities for race discrimination, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice - possibly vested in at least one Commissioner.

I would be happy to expand on these points if you consider this necessary

Yours sincerely,

Monique Bond

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