

Clifford, Julia (SEN)

From: Geoff Berry [geoffberry68@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 April 2003 1:46 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Proposed changes to HRC

Dear Secretary, I write with concern at the proposal to abolish the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.

I believe that this change will weaken the ability of the Human Rights Commission to investigate issues which are brought to it's attention, in at least two fundamental manners.

First of all, necessitating that the Human Rights Commission seek the authority of the Attorney-General before making an investigation clearly gives the Government carte blanche on what is deemed to be worthy, or not, of any attention. Secondly, the Human Rights Commission is further hampered by having the number of commissioners reduced, thus also creating a situation in which their work is not segmented into specific portfolios.

I would be only too happy to speak to my letter before a Senate Committee in regards to these issues.

Regards, Geoff Berry

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