

**Clifford, Julia (SEN)**

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**From:** Peter Harvey [Peter.Harvey@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 April 2003 3:41 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Cc:** hytten, Frank  
**Subject:** Human Rights Commission

Peter Hallahan  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Room S1.61, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

I wish to make a submission on the proposed changes to the Human Rights Commission.

My concerns are primarily that the changes give political control of the HRC, and the removal of specialist commissioners means that the generalists who replace them will not necessarily have the knowledge required to operate effectively.

In particular the changes ....

- 1) will lead to the demise of the effectiveness of the HRC (Human Rights Commission), by reducing the number of commissioners and generalising their work;
- 2) will result in the HRC being turned into a Govt lap-dog by forcing it to seek the AG's permission BEFORE it can investigate any issue
- 3) and I wish to appear before the Senate Committee to speak to my letter - not enough time has been allowed for proper written submissions to be prepared.

Peter Harvey (Dr.)

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