



## Attorney-General

1 Treasury Place  
Melbourne, Victoria 3002  
GPO Box 4356  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001  
Telephone: (03) 9651 1222  
Facsimile: (03) 9651 1188  
DX 210753

Our Ref: CD/10/284564

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SUBMISSION - SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS (PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY) BILL 2010**

I enclose the Victorian Government submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill 2010 ("the Bill"). I note that the Department of Justice contacted the Committee Secretariat to request an extension of time for this submission, which was granted.

The Victorian Government welcomes the introduction of a system of parliamentary scrutiny of proposed Commonwealth legislation for compatibility with human rights through this Bill.

In July 2006, the Victorian Government enacted the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* ("the Victorian Charter"). Among other things, the Victorian Charter establishes a system of parliamentary scrutiny of proposed legislation for compatibility with human rights, which is comparable to the one proposed in the Bill. Victoria is therefore in a unique position to inform discussion about the Bill.

Victoria's experience is that the system of parliamentary scrutiny of proposed legislation for compatibility with human rights adopted in the Victorian Charter has enhanced transparency and accountability and strengthened our parliamentary democracy. It has ensured careful consideration of human rights as an important factor in debates about new policy and legislation, while recognising and reinforcing the principle of parliamentary sovereignty.

The Victorian Government believes that there is a strong interest in having, to the greatest extent possible, a uniform national approach to parliamentary scrutiny of legislation for compatibility with human rights. We also believe that there are areas where the Bill could benefit from the three years'

experience that Victoria has had in the parliamentary scrutiny of proposed legislation for compatibility with human rights.

Please do not hesitate to contact  
of Justice, on ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
information regarding this submission.

, Manager, Human Rights Unit, Department  
should you require any further

I note that consent is given to the publication of this submission.

Yours sincerely

**ROB HULLS MP**  
Attorney-General