



MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Framework

On 15 March 2023, pursuant to the section 7(c) of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*, the Attorney-General [asked](#) the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (the committee) to inquire into, and report on Australia's Human Rights Framework by **31 March 2024**, specifically:

- to review the scope and effectiveness of Australia's [2010 Human Rights Framework](#) and the [National Human Rights Action Plan](#);
- to consider whether the Framework should be re-established, as well as the components of the Framework, and any improvements that should be made;
- to consider developments since 2010 in Australian human rights laws (both at the Commonwealth and State and Territory levels) and relevant case law; and
- to consider any other relevant matters.

The committee invites submissions by **1 July 2023** in relation to these matters, and in particular:

- whether the Australian Parliament should enact a federal Human Rights Act, and if so, what elements it should include (including by reference to the Australian Human Rights Commission's recent [Position Paper](#));
- whether existing mechanisms to protect human rights in the federal context are adequate and if improvements should be made, including:
 - to the remit of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights;
 - the role of the Australian Human Rights Commission;
 - the process of how federal institutions engage with human rights, including requirements for statements of compatibility; and
- the effectiveness of existing human rights Acts/Charters in protecting human rights in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Queensland, including relevant caselaw, and relevant work done in other states and territories.

Committee Chair, Mr Josh Burns MP said:

"This is a timely inquiry as the Australian Human Rights Framework has not been the subject of any significant review since it was first announced in 2010.

In an increasingly digital environment, it is important to look at emerging issues such as the right to privacy and government's role in protecting people's data.

This inquiry will help ensure the Federal Parliament continues to uphold the human rights of all Australians and Australia's international human rights obligations."

The committee will seek further information from selected participants at public hearings to be held in various locations (to be advised), between July and December 2023.

Important information about making submissions and details for the public hearings is available on the committee's inquiry [webpage](#).

The committee is due to report to both Houses of the Parliament by **31 March 2024**.

22 March 2023

For further information: Please visit the committee's [website](#) or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 3823 or by email to human.rights@aph.gov.au.