



people with disability

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NGO in Special Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

9 July 2010

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

Dear Secretary:

Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill 2010 and the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to make submissions to the Committee's Inquiry into these Bills. People with Disability Australia (PWD) strongly supports these Bills in principle, but recommends that amendments be made to ensure these Bills are more robust.

PWD is a national peak disability rights and advocacy organisation that has been providing information, advocacy, training and complaints handling for almost 30 years. Our primary membership is made up of people with disability and organisations primarily constituted by people with disability. We are governed by a Board made up entirely of people with disability. PWD also has a large associate membership of other individuals and organisations committed to the disability rights movement. PWD was founded in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, to provide people with disability with a voice of our own.

PWD participated in several UN Ad Hoc Committee meetings that met to develop the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and has been active in the CRPD ratification, implementation and monitoring processes within Australia. We strongly support measures that will contribute to robust human rights protections in Australia, particularly for people with disability who have largely been ignored by such protections.

We welcome the introduction of these Bills but argue for amendments to the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill 2010 to ensure that its objectives can more adequately be achieved; and argue for amendments to the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2010 to make the strategic policy purpose of this measure explicit.

The amendments required are comprehensively outlined in the submission provided to the Committee by the Disability Discrimination Legal Centre NSW. We have fully endorsed this submission and its recommendations, and refer you to it when considering the views of PWD.

PWD would be pleased to discuss these views with you if it would be useful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

THERESE SANDS

Executive Director, Leadership Team