



Submission 8

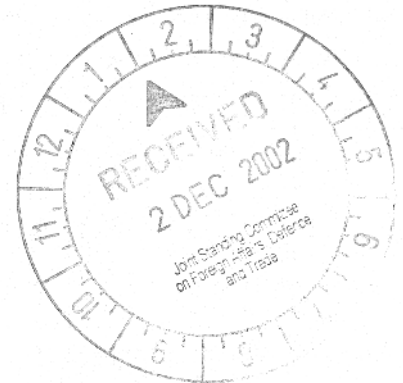
Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR HEALTH MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR WOMEN

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

The Hon Senator Marise Payne
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 16 October 2002 inviting me to make a submission to the inquiry into Human Rights and Good Governance Education undertaken by the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The ACT government is committed to the progressive realisation of human rights, by the incorporation of human rights standards in domestic law, and through government action in every field. A significant measure currently being undertaken in the ACT is an inquiry into whether the ACT should have a Bill of Right, and if so, its form and content. The process has included public seminars, meetings with community groups and a Deliberative Poll planned for the end of November, in which hundreds of Canberrans will gather at Old Parliament House to consider the issues, and express their views. Information has been distributed to the community to increase public awareness of the need to focus on human rights. I enclose a copy of the Issues Paper released by the Bill of Rights Consultative Committee, which has set up a web site at www.act.gov.au/rights. Human rights and good governance education in the ACT community will be enhanced through this process.

Human Rights provide basic standards that are vital for the welfare of the community and the dignity of the individual, and are fundamental for a just and democratic society. My government was elected on a policy platform of strong support to human rights. It is committed to developing policies based on human rights and equality for all members of the community.

I look forward to reading the report of your Sub-Committee as I believe that it will make a positive contribution to human rights and good governance education.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA

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