

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Racial Vilification ACT Submission

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Discussion paper - design of a model for the effective protection of human rights

The ACT Government has released a discussion paper on the design of a new model to oversee the protection of rights in the ACT.

The discussion paper sets out a detailed model for a new Human Rights Commission and an expanded Public Trustee which will ensure that funding for rights protection is delivered effectively to those who most need it, and that resources are directed to service delivery rather than administration.

The changes proposed for the new Human Rights Commission will strengthen the overall oversight, leadership and accountability of the Commission's operations and will support a more cohesive vision, voice and mechanism for rights protection in the ACT.

They will future proof the delivery of rights protection services in the ACT in a tight budgetary environment.

This discussion paper seeks input on the design of a rights protection framework that involves the establishment of a new Human Rights Commission comprising a president and three commissioners covering the functions currently comprised by the Human Rights Commission, the Public Advocate and the Victims of Crime Commissioner.

Supplementary to the proposed new Human Rights Commission, the public guardian functions previously located in the Public Advocate's office are proposed to be co-located within the office of the Public Trustee.

This consultation paper builds a series of discussions with justice-related statutory office holders during 2012 and 2013 about the impact of the challenging financial position of the Territory on small agencies and the delivery of statutory functions. It also takes into account feedback from justice-related statutory office holders on the review of protections of rights services conducted by Nous Group in late 2013. The new model will improve capacity to deal with evolving human rights issues, and deliver extra capability from available resources.

The discussion paper is open for consultation until **12 June 2015**.

The community can provide feedback directly to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate by **12 June 2015** at JACSLPP@act.gov.au or by writing to Legislation, Policy and Programs, GPO Box 158

Canberra ACT.

It is requested that confidential submissions request anonymity. In the absence of a clear indication that a submission is intended to be confidential, submissions will be considered as non-confidential. Any request for access to a confidential submission is determined in accordance with the [Freedom of Information Act 1989](#), which has provisions designed to protect sensitive information given in confidence.

For any questions or information about the inquiry, please email JACSLPP@act.gov.au or telephone (02) 6207 0534.

[Discussion paper](#) [PDF 1.2 KB]

[NOUS Group Report- Review of Protection of Rights Services](#) [PDF 587 KB]

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On 25 March 2014 the Commonwealth Attorney General released an exposure draft of the Freedom of Speech (Repeal of S.18C) Bill 2014 for community consultation.

On 6 May 2014, the Attorney-General made a submission on behalf of the ACT to the community consultation.

The ACT does not support the amendments to the Race Discrimination Act 1975(Cth) as proposed by the exposure draft of the Freedom of Speech Bill.

[Racial Vilification ACT Submission](#) [.PDF 1.2 MB]