



ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
THE HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP

07/25655; MC07/21628; MC07/21715

18 JAN 2008

Dr Kristine Klugman OAM  
President  
Civil Liberties Australia Inc  
Box 7438  
FISHER ACT 2611

Dear Dr Klugman

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2007 regarding community consultations into the rights that Parliament should protect, a charter of citizens' responsibilities, and your support for the consultations to be preceded by a Senate inquiry into the current status of civil liberties in Australia. I also thank you for your kind words in relation to the Labor Party's election success, and my appointment as Attorney-General.

I have also received a copy of a letter addressed to Senator Guy Barnett, Chair of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, dated 1 December 2007, signed by both you and Mr Bill Rowlings in relation to the same matter.

The Australian Government is committed to the promotion of human rights – a commitment that is based on the belief in the fundamental equality of all persons.

~~The Government~~ believes that the protection of human rights and responsibilities is a question of national importance for all Australians, and for this reason proposes to undertake an Australia-wide inquiry to determine how best to recognise and protect human rights and responsibilities in Australia.

I am currently considering a range of options for the conduct of the national inquiry, including the possible involvement of a Parliamentary Committee in this process.

I understand that I will be meeting with you on Tuesday 29 January 2008. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this issue.

I have provided a copy of this letter to Senator Guy Barnett, Chair, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for his information.

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 • Telephone (02) 6277 7300 • Fax (02) 6273 4102 [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)

Thank you for bringing your views on this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Robert McClelland