



**10**  
**YEARS**  
*— of —*  
**IMPACT**



Human Rights  
Law Centre

## Principled human rights leadership

The Human Rights Law Centre's impact on the human rights landscape in Australia and beyond is profound.

We strive for an Australia where human rights are universally understood, upheld, promoted and enforced – an Australia that is a strong and principled voice for human rights around the world.

This year marks our ten year anniversary. In that time we have delivered justice for individuals and systemic change in a range of areas including for asylum seekers and refugees; Indigenous peoples; prisoners; LGBTI people and women. We have held Australia to account when it has failed to uphold the fundamental human rights guaranteed to all people.

The Human Rights Law Centre's powerful contribution is built on partnerships. We work closely with other organisations to lend our expertise and to extend our impact. Our pro bono partnerships over the last ten years have allowed us to deploy over \$30 million worth of expert legal action.

Our strategic mix of litigation, advocacy, research and capacity building delivers enduring results and it is support from people like you who make it all possible. Private funding allows us to remain fiercely independent, nimble and effective.

Thank you for your passion and support. I look forward to the next ten years of growth and impact.

A blue ink signature of Hugh de Kretser, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal line.

**Hugh de Kretser**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# IN THE COURTS

We ran High Court cases that established constitutional recognition of the right to vote and restored voting rights to most prisoners and hundreds of thousands of Australians struck off the electoral roll

Our High Court challenge to Australia's offshore detention centre on Nauru forced the transition from a closed to open centre

Our High Court action reined in excessive Northern Territory police powers which were disproportionately used against Aboriginal people

We challenged in the High Court the high-seas detention of people seeking asylum and established important legal limits on boat turnbacks

We supported a family through a major coronial inquest and helped them push for policy change to address the injustice of Indigenous over-imprisonment and deaths in custody

We upheld the right to health care for prisoners with a major case in the Victorian Supreme Court

We successfully argued in the High Court that the Australian Parliament has the power to legislate for marriage equality



We challenged the legality under PNG law of Australia's detention centre on Manus Island and inspected the centre as part of the National Court human rights investigation

We intervened in a High Court case that provided vital recognition for transgender and intersex people

# IN PARLIAMENT

Our concerted advocacy led to the creation of parliamentary mechanisms to scrutinise all new federal laws against international human rights standards

Our legal action and advocacy played a vital role in securing safe access zone laws that enable women to access abortion services without harassment and intimidation

We defeated Queensland's unnecessary and discriminatory voter ID laws

We secured national legislation to criminalise torture and prevent the state and territories from being able to reintroduce the death penalty

We secured best-practice laws which for the first time established national anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians

We spearheaded the campaign to prevent Victoria's Human Rights Charter from being repealed or weakened



We led legislative reform in Victoria and New South Wales to allow men to apply to erase unjust criminal records imposed when homosexuality was a crime



# AT THE UNITED NATIONS

We coordinated national coalitions for intensive advocacy during the UN's regular human rights reviews of Australia and held the government to account for its compliance with international law



We supported the passage of a landmark UN resolution on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people

We brought a complaint to the UN Human Rights Committee highlighting the need for Australia to adopt independent investigations into police shootings

We obtained UN Human Rights Committee rulings that Australia had violated its obligations by imprisoning children for life without parole and deporting a person who had lived his entire life in Australia

We successfully advocated for Australia to ratify UN Conventions and Protocols on the rights of people with disabilities and eliminating discrimination against women

We co-authored an influential report assessing the credentials of Australia's bid for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council



We made high profile urgent complaints to UN experts on the racially discriminatory Northern Territory Intervention and on Australia's harmful asylum seeker policies

# IN THE COMMUNITY

Our Safeguarding Democracy Report highlighted the steady erosion of many of Australia's democratic foundations and outlined a blueprint for recovery

We played a leading role in the No To Homophobia campaign which reached millions of Australians and featured television ads played at AFL games

We established the unprecedented national Change the Record coalition to tackle the crisis of Indigenous over-imprisonment

We were a leading voice in successful efforts to retain strong and effective legal protections against racial vilification and hate speech



We worked with the No Business in Abuse campaign to hold businesses profiting from Australia's offshore detention regime to account for failing to meet their human rights responsibilities



We produced a ground-breaking report highlighting the dangers of Australia's cooperation with the Sri Lankan military in the one-eyed pursuit of 'stopping the boats'



With key partners we ran the #LetThemStay campaign that prevented 267 people including 37 babies born in Australia from being deported to Nauru and Manus Island



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*The Human Rights Law Centre plays a vital role protecting human rights in Australia. I am proud to support their work and urge others who care about human rights to do the same.*

The late Hon. Malcolm Fraser, AC  
Prime Minister of Australia  
1975-1983



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*I am an enthusiastic supporter of the HRLC because of its strong commitment to human rights standards and its professional approach to using legal action and advocacy to advance the protection of human rights in Australia. The HRLC’s excellent work merits support from everyone concerned with human rights.*

The Hon. Elizabeth A Evatt, AC  
Former member of the  
UN Human Rights Committee



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*On human rights, Australians are all too often complacent and self-satisfied. And Australian lawyers are all too often formalistic, content to indulge in romantic fictions about our institutions. The HRLC is a vital corrective to these national failings.*

The Hon Michael Kirby, AC  
CMG Justice of the High Court  
of Australia 1996-2009.  
President of the International  
Commission of Jurists 1995-1998

**20,000**

We held events, training and seminars attended by over 20,000 people



**27,000**

We built a social media following of over 27,000 Twitter followers and 11,000 Facebook friends



**1 MILLION**

Our website, featuring a database of human rights caselaw, has attracted more than 1 million visits



**5,000**

We appeared in over 5,000 individual articles in the mainstream media



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