

A Guide to Making a Submission to the 8-Year Review of the Victorian Charter



This guide has been prepared by the Human Rights Law Centre to assist community organisations and individuals to participate in the eight-year review of the Victorian Charter.

About the Review

The Victorian Attorney-General has announced a review of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Victorian Charter). The review is being conducted by an independent reviewer, Michael Brett Young, with public submissions due by **4 June 2015**.

The Charter review is a significant opportunity to strengthen the legal protection and practical realisation of human rights in Victoria. Further details about the review, including the Terms of Reference and a Consultation Paper, are available at <https://myviews.justice.vic.gov.au/2015-review-of-the-charter-of-human-rights>.

Who should make a submission?

Individuals and community organisations who have had personal experiences working with the Victorian Charter are strongly encouraged to make their views known to the Reviewer. The Terms of Reference make clear that the review will focus on ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Victorian Charter. For this reason, personal stories and experiences of working with the Victorian Charter – both positive and negative – will be crucial to provide the Reviewer with the important evidence it needs to make recommendations to improve the Charter's operation.

What should I say in my submission?

This review presents a significant opportunity to strengthen the Victorian Charter. Sharing positive experiences of working with the Charter will form a useful evidence base that the Victorian Charter is an important tool for addressing disadvantage and unfairness in Victoria. It is also valuable to share examples where the Charter has not necessarily been useful. These examples will assist to illustrate ways in which the Victorian Charter could be strengthened to ensure that human rights are practical and meaningful for individuals and communities on the ground.

It is important that your submission addresses the Terms of Reference that have been issued for the review. Of course, there is no need to address all of the Terms of Reference but only the ones with which you have had the most experience.

Making your submission

Submissions can be lodged online at <https://myviews.justice.vic.gov.au/2015-review-of-the-charter-of-human-rights>. There is no particular format or requirements for a submission.

Further information and resources

The HRLC will be releasing a **Position Paper** setting out our views on the review of the Victorian Charter, which will be available shortly. Further details about the review, including materials and resources, are available at <http://hrlc.org.au/8-year-review-of-the-victorian-charter-of-human-rights/>.

If you would like any assistance with making your own submission, please contact Ben Schokman at the Human Rights Law Centre on (03) 8636 4451 or at ben.schokman@hrlc.org.au.

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