



MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NSW Attorney-General Congratulated Over Human Rights Consultations**

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights today congratulated the NSW Attorney-General, Bob Debus MP, on his proposal to commence discussions about a charter of rights of freedoms in NSW.

ALHR has long advocated such charters and specifically supported such legislation during the last inquiry in NSW into the topic.

“A Human Rights Act will not stand in the way of new anti-terror laws but it will help to minimise the unwarranted intrusion of those laws on the human rights of individuals.

“The lesson from the UK’s Human Rights Act is that the effects on citizens’ rights of government policies are more closely scrutinised without increasing the amount of litigation,” said Simeon Beckett, President of ALHR.

NSW will join a growing desire to achieve legislated recognition of human rights in Australia seen in the ACT, Victoria and, most recently, Tasmania.

The Victorian consultation process worked well to ensure broad community input, to educate those unaware of the purpose of a charter and to encourage those who have been sceptical of the need for such laws to give it further consideration.

ALHR supports an open process of community consultation by an independent panel of experts and community representatives similar to the process in Victoria.

ALHR are happy to participate in such a process and look forward to a time when the human rights of people in NSW are properly protected by legislation.

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