

# MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

## TASMANIA LAW REFORM INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY  
OF TASMANIA

### ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Today the Tasmania Law Reform Institute released its Issues Paper No 11:

#### **A CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR TASMANIA?**

The Tasmanian Government has asked the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute to investigate how human rights are currently protected in Tasmania and, whether the protection of human rights can be enhanced in any way. The Government is particularly interested to learn whether Tasmania should have a Charter of Rights and if so, what model would best suit the needs of Tasmanians and what rights it should contain. This project is part of the Government's commitment to progressing Tasmania Together Goal 2: "To have a community where people feel safe and are safe in all aspects of their lives."

The Institute has been asked to explore these issues with the Tasmanian community, and will do so over the next three months. This paper aims to stimulate thinking and discussion about the protection of human rights in Tasmania and to encourage as many Tasmanians as possible to participate in the consultation. This is an exciting project with huge potential to make a difference to the ways in which our rights are safeguarded. Those involved with the project will help determine how the Tasmanian law relating to fundamental rights and liberties develops in the future. Those who make a contribution to the consultation will help shape the future of the law in this significant area.

As part of the project, a Human Rights Community Consultation Committee has been established to assist in the consultation process. It consists of Terese Henning, Senior Lecturer in Law, (Chair), Mat Rowell, Chief Executive Officer, Tasmanian Council of Social Services, Jamie Cox, former Captain of Tasmanian Tigers, Career Development Co-ordinator, Tasmanian Cricket Association and Tasmanian Institute of Sport, Lisa Hutton, Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice, Julian Eades, Advocate, Advocacy Tasmania, and Alan Stevenson, former Managing Director, C6 quadriplegic and disability advisor to the project.

The role of the Consultation Committee is to provide advice on the project to the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute and to assist with the community consultation. The Committee members also provide points of contact with the community. Community groups and organisations are encouraged to contact the Committee and arrange for a representative of the Committee to talk with their groups.

Any group or person is invited to respond to this issues paper. The Institute will advise the Government of the community's views and those views will influence the recommendations made to the Government by the Institute. The paper asks 24 key questions that focus on the main issues that the Government has asked the Institute to explore with the community. However, they do not confine the contributions that may be made to the consultation. The Institute wishes to learn the community's views not only on these questions but also on any other issues relating to human rights that people feel may have been omitted.

The Institute invites responses to the Issues Paper by **30 November 2006**.

FURTHER INFORMATION/INTERVIEWS: Terese Henning 6226 2079

Terese Henning is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, and a member of the Institute's Board.

**The Report can be downloaded from [www.law.utas.edu.au/reform/](http://www.law.utas.edu.au/reform/)**  
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