



Our ref: HRC:JBsb231025

23 October 2025

The Hon. Michael Daley, MP
NSW Attorney General
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By Online Form

Dear Attorney,

HUMAN RIGHTS BILL 2025 (NSW)

The Law Society notes the introduction of the private member's Human Rights Bill 2025 (NSW) in the Legislative Assembly today.

The Law Society has a long-standing position of support for dedicated human rights legislation for NSW.¹ We support the Bill's referral to a parliamentary committee for inquiry and report. In our view, this process would help to encourage and lend structure and detail to the discussion around the progression of human rights in NSW.

The Law Society considers that a Human Rights Act in NSW would benefit the community in this state, including by ensuring that human rights are considered consistently in the law-making process. It would also assist in strengthening the integrity of the public sector by requiring the executive and government agencies to further embed human rights considerations in their policies, decision-making and actions. In this respect, it is instructive to consider the models of standalone human rights legislation in Victoria², the Australian Capital Territory³ and Queensland⁴ which preserve parliamentary sovereignty and involve a 'dialogue' between the three arms of government.

If the Government is not minded to refer this Bill to a parliamentary Committee, we encourage another form of comprehensive community consultation on the potential for a Human Rights Act for NSW. We suggest that a public process of this kind is important to ensure engagement by the community with the practical aspects of building a human rights culture in this state.

¹ Law Society of NSW, 'Human Rights Legislation for NSW' (Publication updated September 2025).

² Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).

³ Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT).

⁴ Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld).



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Law Society would be pleased to engage with the Government on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Ball

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President