

NSW Charter Group September 2008 Bulletin

Do you work in a Community Legal Centre?

PIAC is considering offering a half-day training session for centre staff during the quarterly meetings in November (17-19) in Sydney. This is an opportunity to think about the role of your centre in the consultation process promised by the Federal Government (yet unannounced) into protecting human rights. If interested in attending, please email: brenda@piac.asn.au with your preference for time and day

60th Anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

As the 60th Anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* is fast approaching, there is hope that the Federal Government may announce its intention to conduct an inquiry on how to better protect the rights of all Australian peoples.

As human rights supporters in NSW, following are two examples of how you can participate in this important process:

1. Join the Australian Human Rights Group (AHRG), which is the national group campaigning for effective human rights protection in Australia, and of which the NSW Human Right Charter Group is a member. You can join AHRG's emailing list to keep informed on developments and to get access to its Campaign Wiki or you can contact Phoebe Knowles, the Campaign Coordinator for more information: secondee1@pilch.org.au

2. Write a letter to the Prime Minister to highlight why you think it is important for human rights to be effectively protected in Australia, and urge the Federal Government to conduct a broad community-based national inquiry. Send your letter to:

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Call for public submission:

Like oil and water? –Religion and human rights in Australia

HREOC is seeking public comments on the current state of freedom of religion and belief in Australia. The right to freedom of religion and belief is enshrined in a number of international treaties and declarations, the purpose of this project is to examine the extent to which this right can be enjoyed through everyday

practices in Australia today. Submissions close on 31 Jan 2009. For more details:
http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/97_08.html

Not sure why Australia needs better human rights protection?

Read Clara Davies' article on why we cannot continue to take our rights for granted, and why your opinion and your participation counts, go to:
<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2359175.htm>

Want to learn more about human rights and what you can do to make human rights a reality in Australia? Try the following resources:

A Human Rights Act for Australia - <http://www.humanrightsact.com.au/2008/>

International Service for Human rights - <http://www.ishr.ch/>

Human Rights Law Resource Centre - <http://www.hrlrc.org.au>

Events

Training: Protecting Human Rights: Train-the Trainer

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre has been running a one-day workshop for those who want to know more about human rights and are interested in spreading the word. Currently, there are two sessions available in October, one in Sydney and one in Brisbane:

Friday 10 Oct 2008 – Sydney CBD

Thursday 16 Oct 2008 – Brisbane CBD

Email Karen for more information or registration form: karen@piac.asn.au

Talking heads at the Toxteth: Gens XY Gripe

Speakers: Tim Brunero (Green Dirt), Rose Jackson (Young Labor), Alice Murphy (Former Mayor), Shaughn Murphy (Borderline Gen X), Kirsty Ruddock (Environment Defender Seeking Global Amnesty)

Thursday 23 October, 2008 @ 6 for 6.30 pm

Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road, Glebe

Cost: \$10 Inquiries: katebarton3@optusnet.com.au or Tel: 9518.5560

Human Rights Jobs

Policy Research Officer, Human Rights Unit, Australian Human Rights Commission (new name for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission), Sydney

Salary Range \$61,079 - \$68,458.

Non-ongoing (temporary) vacancy for 12 months with a possibility of ongoing (permanent) employment arising during this time. The successful applicant will have experience in policy development and well developed analytical and communication skills. Duties involve policy research relating to human rights issues with a focus on the current charter of rights debate.

Applications addressing the selection criteria must be received by cob 17 October 2008.

Applicants should visit the Commission's website at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/jobs/index.html> to view the position details which outline the full selection criteria which needs to be addressed with the application.