

NSW Charter Group December 2008 Bulletin

Events to celebrate 60th Anniversary of UDHR

Amnesty International Gala Dinner, with guest speaker Geoffrey Robertson QC : Wed 10 December, 6.30pm at Australian Jockey Club, Randwick Pavilion Alison Rd, Randwick, Dress: Celebratory or semi-formal. Tickets: \$100 (Amnesty supporters), \$150 (General). More info: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/19466/>

Redfern Legal Centre - International Human Rights Day: Wed 10 Dec, 6.30pm, Alexandria Hotel, corner Henderson Rd and Garden St, Alexandria. Free entry but RSVP for catering: ph02 9698 7277, small donations also accepted.

Human Rights Arts & Film Festival: 4 Dec – 7 Dec 2008, Chauvel Cinemas, Paddington Town Hall, Cnr Oxford St & Oatley Rd, Paddington. <http://www.hraff.org.au/sydney.html>

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW Division forum: Mon 8 Dec, 7.30pm for 7.45pm start, Fanny Reading Council House, 111/113 Queen St, Woollahra, NSW, \$10 entry, RSVP: 02 9363 0257

The Australian Human Rights Centre's Celebration: Wed 10 Dec, 10.30am-12noon, Law Theatre, Law Building, UNSW, Kensington Campus, RSVP by Friday 5 Dec to ahrc@unsw.edu.au or visit <http://www.ihhr.unsw.edu.au/>

News

National Consultation

The Attorney-General has departed from his prepared remarks at the *Launch of the 18th Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training Program*, and indicated that the national consultation will be announced on 10 December, it will last for 6 months, and that the three people who will be leading the consultation are not yet finalised.

Online Petition for a National Charter of Rights

Australia remains one of the few democracies in the world with neither a constitutional Charter of Rights or legislation that formally protect basic human liberties. If you support the need for community consultation on the need for better human rights protections in Australia, please go to the following link to sign the petition, and please forward the link to your email address list.

<http://www.charterpetition.com.au/>

Australia now a party to CEDAW Optional Protocol

Australia has formally become a party to the Optional Protocol to the UN Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 25 Nov 2008.

Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights

All Health Ministers have recently signed off on the Charter. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is currently looking for ways to make these rights more accessible to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups and people with disabilities.

Dr Ben Saul: The Rudd Government's Human Rights Record: One Year On

An account on what the Rudd government has achieved on human rights and what it needs to achieve if it wants to show real commitment. http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.chtml?filename_num=237908

Report on UK Human Rights Act

A new report published by the British Institute of Human Rights found that the UK Human Rights Act is protecting vulnerable people from abuse and poor treatment in public services. For the report:

<http://www.bihhr.org.uk/documents/press-releases/new-report-shows-the-human-rights-act-protects-vulnerable-people-from-abuse>