THE POLITICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA

Australia has traditionally lacked a strong rights culture. While fairness and equality have been proudly exalted as trademarks of the national mindset, the authors of *The Politics of Human Rights in Australia* argue that these same characteristics may equate to a form of cultural complacency. This outlook could be the reason why Australia has fostered only a loose and incomplete safety net of rights protection, through which many have fallen.

*The Politics of Human Rights in Australia* offers the first comprehensive account of Australia's protection of human rights from a political science perspective. Addressing the key debates surrounding human rights in Australia, the authors ask: Why are voting rights so critical in the Australian context? Should Australia adopt a bill of rights in an age of terror? What are Australia’s responsibilities to global and regional refugee crises? How can reconciliation between Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians be facilitated? How well protected are women’s rights and homosexual rights in Australia?

Written by three respected academics at the forefront of their fields, *The Politics of Human Rights in Australia* offers clarity and insight into the complex issues surrounding the human rights debate in Australia.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AEC       Australian Electoral Commission
AI        Amnesty International
ALR       Australian Law Reports
ALRC      Australian Law Reform Commission
ATSIC     Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
CEDAW     Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CLR       Commonwealth Law Reports
CROC      Convention on the Rights of the Child
HRC       Human Rights Committee
HREOC     Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
ICCCPR    International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD     International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR    International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRC      International Committee of the Red Cross
JSCEM     Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
NGO       Non-government Organisation
PIAC      Public Interest Advocacy Centre
SIEV      Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel
SSCAIA    Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs
TPV       Temporary Protection Visa
UDHR      Universal Declaration of Human Rights