

The Community Consultation Panel
Mental Act Review
Mental Health and Drugs Division
Department of Human Services
GPO Box 4057
MELBOURNE, 3001.

26th February, 2009.

Dear Review Members,

I wish to express concerns about the existing Mental Health Act in Victoria, specifically the laws relating to Involuntary Treatment Orders. It is outrageous to me that a person in need of care when distressed should also forfeit his right to humane and fair treatment.

As a society we have no right to diminish any individual's human rights and should be fighting especially, to preserve these at a time when a person may be experiencing mental difficulties.

We must not permit psychiatrists to label people when they cannot prove medically that any of the conditions they diagnose actually exist or are real.

The boundaries of the current act cut across at least 4 of the basic rights as listed below:

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Let's aim for a Mental Health Act we can be proud of which preserves human rights and the dignity of those who may need our support at a most vulnerable stage of their lives.

Yours sincerely,


Glenys Wall BA Dip Ed