

The Fremantle Declaration


We, the Attorneys General of the governments of Australia, declare and affirm our commitment to the following principles:

1. the right to a fair trial;
2. the principle of habeas corpus;
3. the prohibition on indefinite detention without trial;
4. the prohibition on torture;
5. access to rights under the Geneva Conventions;
6. the separation of powers; and
7. the prohibition on the death penalty.

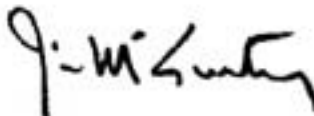
These are fundamental norms of the Australian legal system and we, as Attorneys General, are responsible for ensuring that these principles are upheld in our jurisdictions.

Australia has signed and committed to international treaties and conventions in which these rights are protected: the Geneva Conventions, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.


We reaffirm our commitment to these international agreements and principles.




The Hon Bob Debus
ATTORNEY GENERAL
New South Wales



The Hon Jim McGinty
ATTORNEY GENERAL
West Australia



The Hon Michael Atkinson
ATTORNEY GENERAL
South Australia



The Hon Syd Stirling
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Northern Territory



Mr Simon Corbell
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Australia Capital Territory



The Hon Kerry Shine
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Queensland



The Hon Steven Kons
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Tasmania


The Fremantle Declaration

We declare our support for the Fremantle Declaration, signed by the Attorneys General of the Australian States and Territories, which affirms the following principles:

1. the right to a fair trial;
2. the principle of habeas corpus;
3. the prohibition on indefinite detention without trial;
4. the prohibition on torture;
5. access to rights under the Geneva Conventions;
6. the separation of powers; and
7. the prohibition on the death penalty.

We affirm our belief in the international treaties and conventions Australia has signed which protect these fundamental rights: the Geneva Conventions, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

On the fifth anniversary of David Hicks' detention without trial we call on the Commonwealth Government to take action so that, throughout the world, all Australians charged with a crime will have a fair trial in a fair system.

Signed:  Date: 7.XII.06

Name: MARTIN DAUBNEY S.C.

Title: PRESIDENT

Organization: BAR ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

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