Mr Edward O'Donohue, MLC
Chairperson
Scrutiny of Acts & Regulations Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Dear Edward,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a brief submission to the Committee.

As a Christian, I am well aware that Australia as a whole is turning away from honouring God (the one and only God of the Bible). This is to the detriment of all Australia, including all Victorians. Failure to honour God, in our laws and conduct, inevitably gives rise to a Pandora of problems that backlash against our society, and bring injustice and suffering to many. If continued, they will eventually bring the direct judgement of God; who is all sovereign. (Is it any co-incidence that the last devastating Victorian Bushfire's occurred so hard on the heels of Victorian legislation allowing late-term abortions?)

One of the reasons that we enjoy a comfortable standard of living in Australia is that - as the Committee well know - God is given first place in the Australian Constitution. (Refer the preamble) Our founding Fathers, at Federation, recognised the positive influence of Judeo-Christianity in the formation of Australian (& Victorian) society.

Sadly, that heritage is not untarnished: lawmakers and our forefathers carried out some acts that were in direct contradiction to Biblical statutes. However, in spite of these acts - some particularly gruesome - God himself has graceously prospered our nation, including the State of Victoria.

I, for one, am grateful that opportunity has been given for comment to the Victorian Charter of Rights. And, for the opportunity to re-capture some of the essence that God has put forth in relation to human rights. I am utterly convinced that only as we strive to frame our laws in accordance with God's heart for his creatures, will peace and prosperity continue to be our lot as citizens of this wonderful State.

My submission is very brief - having been borrowed from the Australian Christian Lobby. Nevertheless, I respectfully request that the Committee seriously consider the recommendations.

They are:

That the Charter be repealed because:

1. It transfers power from elected politicians to unelected judges;

2. It can be used as a lever to advance contestable agendas not popular at the ballot box;
here are other, democratic mechanisms to remedying breaches of human rights without interfering with the separation of the legislature and the judiciary;

3. It has been used to limit religious freedom instead of preserve it;
4. It is farcical because it specifically denies protection to the unborn;
5. It fails to protect freedom of conscience, with Victoria’s abortion laws compelling doctors opposed to abortion to act against conscience by referring patients to abortion doctors.

I am reminded of the bold mosaic inscription (in the lobby?) of old parliament house in Melbourne. It reads, I am told, something like "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

This is a direct quote from the book of Proverbs chapter 24 verse 6, included in the Bible. It was written by King Solomon (or one of his wise counsellors), in an era of unparalleled peace and prosperity in Israel. King Solomon came to power in 967 BCE, and reigned for 40 years. He accumulated enormous wealth, and ruled a kingdom that stretched from the Euphrates River in the North, to Egypt in the South. He was known for his wisdom throughout the then known world. (Refer the books of 1 Kings, and II Chronicles, in the Bible).

My point? King Solomon was granted a long rule by God, because he made every effort to uphold the laws of God. Whilst he lived in a different era, under a different form of government, the principles that undergirded the Law then, are the same principles that undergird the Law today. They are, of course, summarized in the 10 Commandments, given directly by God to Moses.

My plea to your Committee is that Victoria does not require a Charter of Rights - we already have the most comprehensive Charter contained within the pages of Scripture itself. Anything else must inevitably fall short. Further, we must resist every effort by those who would oppose our Judeo-Christian heritage in seeking to turn our society away from a consciousness of God.

I humbly submit the above in the hope that our nation, and in particular the people of our State of Victoria, will continue to enjoy the continued favour and blessing of God.

Yours faithfully,

Jeff Truscott
Sunbury, Victoria

Ps. This email may be used as a public submission.