20 December 2013

The Manufactured Homes Residential Parks Review

GPO Box 690

BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Registrar

**REVIEW OF *MANUFACTURED HOMES (RESIDENTIAL PARKS) ACT 2003***

This submission is made by the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (Commission) into the review of the *Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003* (MHRP Act).

The Commission has the functions of promoting the purposes of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* and of promoting an understanding and acceptance and public discussion of human rights in Queensland.

**Housing and Human Rights**

Adequate housing is a human right recognised in a number of international instruments to which Australia is a party and the terms of which Australia has agreed to implement. These instruments include the *International Covenant on Economic[[1]](#footnote-1), Social and Cultural Rights*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child[[2]](#footnote-2)* and the *Convention* *on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[[3]](#footnote-3)*.

Housing in Queensland is comprised of private ownership, private rental, public / community housing, manufactured homes, caravan parks, boarding houses / lodges, and hostels.

**The MHRP Act**

The main object of the MHRP Act is to regulate, and promote fair trading practices in, the operation of residential parks for the protection of home owners. Encouraging the continued growth and viability of the residential park industry in Queensland and providing a clear regulatory framework to ensure certainty for the industry in planning for future expansion are also important objects of the MHRP Act.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The Commission encourages the review of the MHRP Act discussion paper to consider that the MHRP’s are part of the broader public and social housing policy framework. Particularly that housing affordability is becoming a significant factor in the increasing number of homeless people in Queensland and Australia. We would encourage the review to include a discussion on the need for MHRP’s to provide affordable and accessible accommodation sites.

I look forward to receiving and responding to the discussion paper early next year when it is released for public consultation.

Yours sincerely



**KEVIN COCKS AM**

**Anti-Discrimination Commissioner**

1. Article 11 – The States Parties to the present Covenant recognise the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Article 27 – 1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. ...3. States Parties, in accordance with national conditions within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programs, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Article 28 – States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The objects, and the means of achieving the main object, are set out in section 4 of the MHRP Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)