

The background of the entire page is a dark blue overlay on a photograph of several people's hands raised in a fist, symbolizing protest or solidarity. The text is centered in white.

Liberty Victoria

2020 - 2021 Annual Report

**LIBERTY
VICTORIA**

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About Liberty Victoria

Liberty Victoria has a long and proud history, campaigning for civil liberties and human rights for more than 80 years. Officially known as the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties Inc, its lineage extends back to the Australian Council for Civil Liberties (ACCL). The ACCL was formed in Melbourne in 1936 and was determined to offer “a means of expression to those people in all parties who believe that social progress may be achieved only in an atmosphere of liberty”.

Throughout its history, Liberty Victoria has defended the right of individuals and organisation to free speech, freedom of the press and assembly, and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or political belief. It has operated in accordance with the ACCL’s original platform, working not only to defend existing civil liberties and oppose their limitation, but to campaign for the “enlargement of those liberties”.

Liberty Victoria is now one of Australia’s leading civil liberties organisations. Through its Policy and Management Committees, Liberty Victoria influences debate at a State and Federal level. We are frequently asked for comment and guidance by media, politicians, law reformers and policy makers. We have staged a number of public events with a view to providing opportunities for engagement in and furtherance of issues of human rights and civil liberties.

Liberty Victoria actively makes public statements, issues media releases, contacts and negotiates with Federal and State government ministers in relation to a diverse and extensive array of matters of public interest.

For every one of you who contributed this year, thank you.

We have had another extraordinary year and we appreciate your support.

Thank you **for standing up for human rights and civil liberties** during this tumultuous time.

Thanks to you, the civil liberties and human rights of the people of Victoria continue to be upheld and challenges defended.

Liberty Victoria accepts that some limitations to our civil liberties during this crisis are necessary. At the same time though, we must ensure these limits remain in proportion to the threat.

With your support Liberty Victoria has been vigilant in holding the authorities to account. Thanks to you we have called for:

- Peaceful protest activity to be allowed where there is no community transmission.
- Better privacy practices in relation to the use of QR code data and that the data should not be made available to Victoria police.
- Removing restrictions on Australian Citizens who wish to return to Australia.
- An alternative to the over reliance on policing to manage the Covid-19 pandemic which disproportionately impacts on vulnerable people.
- A stop to three migration bills before Parliament which would have a devastating effect on some of the most vulnerable people and their families and communities.

None of this could have been achieved without you.

Again due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Voltaire Human Rights Awards Dinner was not able to be held. Instead we held a webinar with presentations from the four inspiring recipients or in the case of the Empty Chair Human Rights Award, their representatives.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our second Voltaire webinar and who have supported us in other ways during the year. Without you the freedoms and liberties enjoyed by the people of Victoria would have been further eroded – by regulation and by legislation.

Knowing you are with us is inspiring and fills us all with determination to continue to defend the civil liberties and human rights of us all.

Thank you again for your extraordinary support. And thank you again for contributing to make our defence and advocacy of important rights in Victoria possible.

Liberty Victoria's Executive Committee

Julia Kretzenbacher
Julian Burnside
Sam Norton
Thomas Kane
Monique Mann
Jamie Gardiner
Michelle Bennett
Martin Radzaj

© Thomas Kane Photography

Acknowledgement of Country



Liberty Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, their ancestors and their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Liberty Victoria fully supports constitutional recognition of First Nations People, in the form set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart: a constitutionally enshrined, First Nations voice to the Parliament, and a Makarrata Commission, which will supervise a process of agreement-making and truth-telling.

Leadership 2020 -2021

Executive Group

President : Julia Kretzenbacher

Senior Vice-President : Sam Norton

Vice-Presidents:

Thomas Kane

Jamie Gardiner AM

Monique Mann

Secretary : Martin Radzaj

Treasurer : Michelle Bennett

Past President : Julian Burnside QC AO

Patron: The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

Management Committee

Rochelle Francis

Alexander Batsis

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Lindy Smith

Executive Officer

Executive Officer: Grace Girardi

Policy Committee

Brigid Arthur

Gregory Buchhorn

Gemma Cafarella

Pamela Curr

James D'Alessandro

Hannah Dickinson

Hannah Figueiroa

Rochelle Francis

Greg Hanson

Virajith Hewaarachchi

Andreea Lachs

Alina Leikin

Hugo Moodie

Sophie Stafford

Michael Stanton

Timothy Warner

Professor Spencer Zifcak



President's Report: Julia Kretzenbacher

The past year has been a challenging and rewarding one as president of Liberty Victoria.

It's now almost trite to say that the last 18 months have been some of the most disruptive and difficult times for many of us. The pandemic has thrown up unprecedented and complex issues, including issues that affect civil liberties and human rights. We currently live with restrictions that would have been difficult to imagine in a pandemic free past. While being mindful and supportive of measures that protect public health, we called on Government to ensure there is a proper balance struck between competing human rights.

Committee members have continued to respond to the changing landscape with an even greater focus of our work this year on media participation than last year.

The past year has been one of our busiest years in respect of media appearances, most of which were related to the pandemic. Our website contains examples of those appearances, but at last count there were 79 media appearances done by different Liberty Victoria spokespeople during the pandemic. That is an immense achievement for a volunteer organisation and I thank the members of our media team who have gone above and beyond for Liberty Victoria for this work: Greg Hanson, Gemma Cafarella, Martin Radzaj, Michael Stanton, Tim Warner, Greg Buchhorn, Sam Norton, Hannah Dickinson, Jamie Gardiner, Tom Clarke and Adam Pulford. Many of the team have taken time out of their day (and sometimes very early mornings) to be on call to respond to media enquiries, with the occasional challenge of changing out of lockdown clothes at the drop of a hat for television interviews. Our annual report and our website further show the breadth of this work.

In the past year Liberty Victoria has spoken out about a number of issues concerning the human rights impact of the pandemic. In particular, we have called for:

- Peaceful protest activity to be allowed where there is low or no community transmission;

- Better privacy practices in relation to the use of QR code data and that the data should not be made available to Victoria Police;
- Removing restrictions on Australian citizens and permanent residents who wish to return to Australia;
- An alternative to the over reliance on policing to manage the Covid-19 pandemic which disproportionately impacts on vulnerable people.

Liberty Victoria has also continued its work on inquiries and made a number of submissions. Some in respect of COVID-19, including into the Parliamentary Inquiry into the COVID-19 response and the Parliamentary Inquiry into Contact Tracing, as well as issues that affect criminal justice, refugee and human rights concerns, and LGBTQIA issues.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our committee members in negotiating and responding to the ongoing issues that are occurring. Your professionalism, expertise and concern for humanity have contributed to a high-quality body of work that is continuing to have an impact.

The work of the Rights Advocacy Project (RAP) initiative has expanded our reach towards younger members and students and has continued their work this year. There has been great success in the publication of reports including *"Bridging the Department's Visa Blindspot"* and *Bailing Out a Broken System*. Thank you to Emma-Buckley Lennox who finished up as RAP Chair this year, after several years in that role. Emma has been instrumental to RAP's success. Rochelle Francis took over as RAP Chair mid-2021 and has continued the excellent work. A special thanks also to the RAP steering committee, those who have put up their hand to be supervisors and the volunteers themselves who have continued to produce high quality and important work during difficult circumstances.

This year we also held events that reinforced our focus on human rights. The first of these was our 2020 Annual General Meeting which was held online for the first time. Our guest speaker Osman Faruqi discussed the issues

that arose in 2020 in respect of policing in the pandemic, His research highlighted how the expansion of state power reproduced some of the negative aspects of police culture. Covid-19-related policing disproportionately affected the most vulnerable in our community especially the Indigenous people and CALD communities. He reiterated the importance of vigilance in relation to these issues.

Our major event for the year, the Voltaire Awards continued as a webinar. While we were unable to meet with all of our members over our annual awards dinner, we were delighted to be able to continue to acknowledge and celebrate the work of a number of people who have been working tirelessly to support and progress human rights and civil liberties.

In 2021, the Children of Tanya Day were honoured with the Voltaire Human Rights Award. The advocacy of Tanya's children around issues of Indigenous incarceration has been instrumental in the abolishment of the public drunkenness offence in Victoria. Their work continues by working with other families who have been tragically affected by deaths in custody and they continue to call Governments to account. Apryl Day accepted the award on behalf of her siblings. Apryl's speech demonstrated the eloquence, perseverance, dignity and strength that contributed to this decision. April 15, 2021 marked the 30th anniversary of the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. The work that the Children of Tanya Day have been doing and continue to do shows how far Government and the community still has to come in properly acknowledging and addressing overpolicing and overincarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Mohamed Semra received the Young Voltaire Human Rights Award. Mohamed actively works to ensure that we have future decision-makers that represent and reflect the people that they are serving. Mohamed gave a remarkable and inspiring speech, outlining how he overcame personal challenges and was able to make an impact as an activist.

This year, the Empty Chair Award, was awarded to all refugees and asylum seekers in on and off-shore detention. The award was accepted on behalf of the recipients by Craig Foster and Mostafar Azimitibar who have both made significant contributions to improving the situation of refugees and asylum seekers.

This year due to Covid-19 we continued to face financial challenges with the cancellation of our awards dinner and a recent downturn in donations. Liberty Victoria remains in a sound financial position due to the donations of members and supporters, however we will remain vigilant about ensuring our longer-term financial

sustainability. I appreciate the efforts of the Executive team in the financial management of our organisation, especially the work of our Treasurer, Michelle Bennett, and our Vice-President Thomas Kane in ensuring and safeguarding Liberty Victoria's financial stability. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for the future sustainability of Liberty Victoria.

I would also like to acknowledge our significant supporters, especially Michael Drapac, who has continued to provide accommodation to Liberty Victoria, including enabling us to move to a new office location. Michael has also been a great supporter of the Liberty Leadership fund which funds the professional development of committee members. The 2021 recipient of the Liberty Leadership scholarship is Hannah Dickinson and we look forward to seeing her continue and build upon the work that she has been doing.

Thank you also to our members and other supporters who have provided donations and participated in events throughout the year.

With limited funding, Liberty has been fortunate to have the voluntary support and expertise of a number of people who assist us in numerous ways. Maelor Himbury continues the extraordinary service of providing subscribers with our daily media links. We also thank Sally-Anne Raheer and Jill Ruchel from Red Letter Fundraising who provided expert direction and assistance in the development of our fundraising activities. We also thank Lindy Smith, our volunteer coordinator, in identifying and guiding volunteers to help out on different projects. Thank you also to our executive officer Grace Girardi, Anna Kingston for RAP and Andrew Rawson with IT support.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Thomas Kane's support, enthusiasm and drive which has continued to ensure Liberty Victoria's success through the most difficult of times. Thank you, Thomas.

To our committee members and to RAP members: thank you for your generosity and the work that you have done and continue to do. All of our committee members are fully engaged in busy professional careers in their own right so I acknowledge the significant commitment and sacrifice that you have made to progress the work of Liberty Victoria. We are united by a shared commitment to the ideals of human rights and civil liberties.

Finally, I thank you, the members of Liberty Victoria for your continued support. Without you, Liberty could not survive.

Yours Sincerely

Julia Kretzenbacher

Voltaire Awards



The 2021 Voltaire Human Rights Awards were held as an online webinar. The awards, acceptance speeches and live question and answer session are [available for viewing from our website](#).

The **Voltaire Human Rights Award** honours a person or group who have made outstanding contributions to human rights, free speech or civil liberties, with particular emphasis on progressing freedom, respect, equality, dignity and action

The 2021 Voltaire Human Rights Award recipients are the Children of Tanya Day: Belinda Day, Warren Day, Apryl Day and Kimberly Watson.

Tanya Day, a proud Yorta Yorta woman, tragically died in custody, after being arrested for public drunkenness.

This year marks 40 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. The Royal Commission made a number of recommendations to address deaths in custody, including abolishing public drunkenness laws.

The children of Tanya Day, Belinda Day, Warren Day, Apryl Day and Kimberly Watson have undertaken a sustained effort over a number of years to fight the injustice that Tanya experienced, highlighting the inappropriateness of public drunkenness laws and advocating for justice for First Nations people, especially those in custody.

The advocacy work of the children of Tanya Day is an example of an extraordinary commitment to human rights. The family's sacrifice and effort at a time of great personal grief and their ongoing public advocacy to seek justice in relation to Tanya's death has resulted in a community wide benefit.

Tanya Day's children have been instrumental in the abolishment of the public drunkenness law in Victoria. They have highlighted how this law disproportionately affects First Nations people; their calls for public drunkenness laws to be replaced by a more compassionate public health response is in the process of being realised.

They are continuing their fight for accountability for Tanya's tragic death. At the same time, they are using their profile to seek justice for First Nation's people. Apryl Day has been instrumental in founding the Dhadjowa Foundation. The foundation has been established to advocate for families whose loved ones have died in custody and to provide a coordinated approach to assisting those families.



Apryl Day accepts the 2021 Voltaire Human Rights Award during the online event

The **Young Voltaire Human Rights Award** honours a person or group no older than 30 at the date of their nomination for an outstanding contribution to or action on free speech, human rights or civil liberties, with particular emphasis on progressing freedom, respect,

equality and dignity. It celebrates those who speak out, write, campaign, whistle-blow, take action or stand against authoritarianism.



Mohamed Semra accepts the 2021 Young Voltaire Award

Mohamed Semra was the recipient of Liberty Victoria's Young Voltaire Human Rights Award.

You may have already heard of Mohamed Semra. In 2015, Mohamed, a school captain, was one of six students evicted from an Apple store at Highpoint shopping centre. Mohamed and his friends were racially profiled as thieves based solely on the colour of their skin. The incident made international headlines after the encounter was filmed and made public. Mohamed and his classmates spoke out about the incident, which highlighted the injustice in which Mohamed and his friends were treated. Apple later publicly apologised.

Since then, Mohamed has continued to be an active human rights advocate and is involved in social justice and community activities.

In 2019, he established Endeavour Youth Australia (**EYA**), which aims to identify and invest in diverse leaders. With EYA he has supported hundreds of young people to build their confidence, learn active citizenship and leadership skills. He has advocated for increased cultural awareness amongst leaders. Mohamed actively works to ensure that we have future decision-makers that represent and reflect the people that they are serving.

Mohamed is an exceptional advocate for young people and a worthy recipient of the Young Voltaire Human Rights Award. We congratulate Mohamed on receiving the Young Voltaire Human Rights Award.

The **Empty Chair Award** was established in 2016 and is an award presented to a person who is worthy to receive the Voltaire or Young Voltaire Human Rights Award, but cannot be present to receive the award due to the consequences of their exercise of their advocacy for human rights, free speech or civil liberties.

This year, Liberty Victoria awarded the 2021 Liberty Victoria Empty Chair Award to all refugees and asylum seekers in on and off-shore detention.

A number of individual refugees and asylum seekers in detention were nominated for the 2021 Voltaire Empty Chair Award. In recognition of the human rights work and advocacy in which a number of people in detention have been active over the years, Liberty Victoria decided to award the Empty Chair to all refugees and asylum seekers in detention.

This group has fought to defend their freedoms and to articulate the experiences and injustices to which they have been subjected.

They have shown moral leadership and political resistance, working together in protests from remote islands, hotel prisons, immigration detention facilities, and more recently for those who have been released, by taking the extraordinarily brave act of speaking out from in front of the buildings in which they were formerly detained.

Australian immigration detention policies and practices mean that refugees and asylum seekers who have fled persecution and torture in their own countries continue to be dehumanised and detained, having to wait years to have their claims determined. Ongoing and indefinite immigration detention is a fundamental breach of refugee and asylum seeker human rights.

On behalf of refugees and asylum seekers the award was accepted by Mostafar Azimitibar and Craig Foster, both of whom have worked tirelessly to protect the rights of those in detention.

Apryl Day, Mohamed Semra, Craig Foster and Mostafar Azimitibar took part in an interesting and inspiring live question and answer session as part of the [2021 Liberty Victoria Voltaire Human Rights Awards webinar](#). We urge you to watch it.

Once again, we hope that we will be able to see you all again in person to celebrate our next Voltaire awards.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Bennett

A surplus of \$8,940 was made for the year compared with \$48,070 in 2020. While we have had a reasonable financial result this year, the pandemic in Victoria and the change to the Voltaire Human Rights Award format to an online event has had an ongoing impact.

The generous donations and government support received in the previous financial year has meant that we were able to boost our retained earning reserve which has been drawn down this financial year to fund operational expenses of the organisation.

Our reserves are still able to support us in the next year, but ongoing reductions in revenue through fundraising events and potential for a decrease in donations are likely to have an impact on Liberty Victoria's financial position in the next year.

In addition, we have created two reserve funds. The Liberty Leadership fund has been created through generous donations and is set aside to fund professional development of committee members to further Liberty's goals. The RAP Reserve fund has been established by separating out funds from the fundraising efforts of RAP in the last few years. This is used to support the RAP volunteer program and fund a RAP Officer who has been employed to assist with administration and ongoing fundraising.

Thanks to the generosity of members and supporters we have been able to have achieve a favourable financial outcome.

Members funds totalled \$125,995 as at 30 June 2021 (\$117,056 as at 30 June 2020).

At the end of June 2021 there were 316 current members

Michelle Bennett
Treasurer

current members.

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for the Twelve Months Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Income		
Memberships	16,925	13,025
Donations	36,828	38,111
Events	374	89,102
Investment Income	46	93
Other Income	24,604	12,660
Total income	78,777	152,991
Expenditure		
Events	992	59,747
Bank Charges	1,414	1,544
Office Costs	3,883	2,552
Salaries and Contractors	50,980	35,886
RAP Expenses	3,689	-
Software/ Website	4,480	4,516
Other Costs	4,400	676
Total Expenditure	69,838	104,921
Surplus for the year	8,939	48,070

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Assets		
Westpac general account	8,643	25,657
Petty cash	673	373
Westpac high interest account	116,886	82,738
Prepayments- Voltaire dinner deposit	0	7,500
Cash box	22	21
Paypal	2,617	397
Trybooking	258	370
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets	129,099	92,982
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses	3,104	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	3,104	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets	125,995	117,056
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented by Member Funds		
Liberty Leadership Fund Reserve	15,600	0
RAP Reserve	17,050	0
Retained Earnings	84,406	68,986
Current years surplus / deficit	8,939	48,070
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Member Funds	125,995	117,056
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rights Advocacy Project - RAP

What a year it has been for the Rights Advocacy Project (RAP). Against a backdrop of tumultuous events over the last 12 months, it is clear that lawyers and advocates are needed now more than ever to support social movements and build a world that is more just for every person.

RAP is a program of Liberty Victoria to train and empower the next generation of human rights advocates with the skills to use law to create social and systemic change. We recruit law students, early career lawyers, advocates and campaigners and provide them with targeted training to engage in practical and strategic law reform. Over 18 months, our volunteers work in teams across criminal justice reform, equality and government accountability and refugees and people seeking asylum to identify an area in need of change and their 'value add' to the wider movement.

In June, our 18-month training program wrapped up for the 2020 cohort and we saw our 2019 and 2020 teams push their projects towards launch with several still in the pipeline. Despite the impact of the pandemic on the ways we work, our volunteers have continued to engage in critical law reform.

Highlights of this work include:

- the ['Bridging the Department's Visa Blindspot'](#) report on the lack of transparency and accountability in the "bar lift" for people applying for bridging visas;
- the ['Bailing Out a Broken System'](#) report proposing reforms to wind back the negative impacts of 2018 changes to Victoria's bail laws;
- a [submission to the Senate Inquiry into Job Security](#) to safeguard minimum standards for 'on-demand' and 'gig' workers;
- an imminent report on how to make the leave system fairer for people who menstruate;
- an [imminent report](#) in collaboration with the Koori Youth Council on what legal and policy reform is needed for a self-determined system that would divert young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people away from entering the legal system;
- an imminent report following extensive consultation with the legal profession that proposes legislative and policy amendments to better regulate of the use of body-worn cameras in the police force; and
- an imminent resource to assist practitioners working with survivors of gendered violence seeking asylum in Australia who face credibility issues when having their protection claims assessed.

Our immense gratitude goes to our volunteers whose intellect, diligence and passion has been inspiring, particularly in the throes of the pandemic. Please keep an eye on our new website rightsadvocacyproject.org for our latest work.

The last financial year has been a significant period of development for the Steering Committee. Following our planning weekend in November 2020, RAP codified its purpose, strategy, systems and structure in a Charter and initiated a dialogue with Liberty Victoria about incorporation into the Constitution. At our planning weekend, the Steering Committee also made the decision to employ its first paid officer to support the administration of the program and drive our fundraising work. The pandemic has affected our regular means of fundraising through an annual trivia night. In the last financial year we raised \$361.25. We hope that in the next financial year with the support of our RAP officer, we will be able to secure new sources of funding including grants and additional events and restore our cash reserves.

In the last financial year, we welcomed new members and said farewell to members of the Steering Committee who have been driving forces of the program and our advocacy work including Emma Buckley Lennox, Monique Hurley, Sam Moorhead, Sophie Weiner and Hannah Neven-Gorr. Thank you to each of them for their enormous contributions to RAP. I would particularly like to acknowledge the wonderful Emma Buckley Lennox for her leadership since June 2018 which has seen RAP grow from strength to strength. Finally, my sincere thanks to each member of the current Steering Committee and our RAP officer Anna Kingston for their tremendous effort and support to progress the work of RAP through another difficult year.



RAP Steering Committee, volunteers and supervisors at a virtual celebration event in June 2020

Rights Advocacy Project - RAP Teams

2019

Refugee & Asylum Seeker

Samudhya Jayasekara Isabella Farrell-Hallegraeff
 Zoe Brown Baneen Saberi
 Sione Pemberton Emma Blakey
Supervisors: Joel Townsend, Maria O'Sullivan

Criminal Justice

Arabella Close Kresta Lokumarambage
 Sanduni De Silva Asad Kasim-Khan
 Erin Meeking
Supervisors: Hugo Moodie, Jacob Torney,
 Julia McGrath, Madelaine Ryan

Equality and Government Accountability

Tim Cronin Shannen Bethune
 Abbey Dalton Sophie Lloyd
 Sophia McNamara
Supervisors: Gemma Cafarella, Di White

Indigenous Justice

Natasha Ritchie, Trang Chau
 Joely Wilkinson-Hayes Sophie Wenderoth
 Joshua Finn
Supervisors: Jidah Clark, Anna Cerreto

2020

Refugee & Asylum Seeker

Simrat Roopra Monique Failla
 Catherine Zhou Liam Currie
 Veronica Snip Veronica Snip
Supervisors: Joel Townsend, Maria O'Sullivan

Criminal Justice

Aoife McDonald Mahnoor Sikandar
 Katherine Schofield Ovindui Rajasinghe
 Kiara Wagner Samantha Varghese
Supervisors: Julia Kretzenbacher,
 Yusr Al-Azzawi, Julian Murphy

Equality and Government Accountability

Gemma Hallett Madeleine O'Brien
 Katherine Ross Tiarne Crowther
 Josephine Marchant Tim Sheehan
Supervisors: Gemma Cafarella, Greg Buchhorn,
 Oanh Tran

Steering Committee 2020-2021

Chair: Rochelle Francis,
 Emma Buckley Lennox
 (Until May 2021)

Deputy Chair & Program Manager:
 Alexander Batsis

**Deputy Chair & Indigenous Justice Team
 Coordinator:** Monique Hurley
 (Until April 2021)

Treasurer & Secretary:
 Jackson McLeod

Monitoring and Evaluations Co-ordinator:
 Chris Chosich

**Refugee & Asylum Seeker Team - Project
 Coordinator:** Elizabeth Colliver

Criminal Justice Team Coordinator:
 Danny Zajd

**Equality & Government Accountability
 Team - Project Coordinator:**
 Abbey Dalton

**Refugee & Asylum Seeker Ongoing
 Advocacy Coordinator:**
 Isabella Farrell-Hallegraeff
 Hannah Neven-Gorr.
 (Until June 2021)

Criminal Justice Advocacy Coordinators:
 Arabella Close

**Equality & Government Accountability
 Advocacy Coordinator:**
 Ruby Hayes

Liberty Victoria

Submissions and Policy Work

[Review of Victoria's responses to stalking, harassment and similar conduct, including the framework for, operation and enforcement of the Personal Safety Intervention Order \(PSIO\) system](#)

7 September 2021

Submitted to: Victorian Law Reform Commission

Liberty Victoria supports the introduction of additional protections for complainants in stalking prosecutions, insofar as the accused's fundamental right to a fair hearing and the presumption of innocence are not adversely affected.

[Select Committee Inquiry on Job Security](#)

7 September 2021

Submitted to: Senate Select Committee on Job Security

Liberty Victoria is concerned that businesses sourcing labour from the on-demand workforce may be doing so in order to obfuscate the reality of their relationships with workers, and to exploit the uncertainty the current common law test creates

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Act Engagement Paper](#)

3 August 2021

Submitted to: Department of Health

The provision of quality mental health treatment has the capacity to positively impact upon people experiencing mental illness. However, there are circumstances in which the provision of such treatment — and the provision of compulsory treatment in particular — has the capacity to significantly curtail the rights and freedoms of consumers. Accordingly, it is vital that promoting and protecting human rights should be a central focus of and underpin the framework of a reformed mental health system in Victoria.

[Inquiry into Extremist Movements and Radicalism in Australia](#)

20 July 2021

Submitted to: The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJICIS)

Author: Joint Submission by Muslim Collective and Liberty Victoria

We accept that extremist movements and actors pose a significant threat to the Australian Community. However, over the past two decades there has been a focus on the danger of Islamist extremism at the expense of proper attention being given to the resurgence of far-right extremism. As demonstrated by the Christchurch massacre, the danger of far-right extremism is all too real, can be fostered by Australian far-right movements, and can result in tragedy close to home.

[Inquiry into Management of Child Sex Offender Information](#)

22 June 2021

Submitted to: Submission to the Legal and Social Issues Committee of the Legislative Council (Victoria)

Although this proposed Bill may have started as a stock-standard anti-discrimination bill for the attribute of religious belief or activity (as has long been a part of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act, for example) it has developed a number of cancerous excrescences which made it unsupportable in the first version, and make it even less supportable in the second. It can only be saved, if at all, by radical surgery such as an optimistic surgeon might attempt for late stage metastatic cancer. With similar optimism Liberty therefore recommends, for the proposed sections or sub-sections shown, a number of excisions or surgical amendments.

[Inquiry into: The efficacy, fairness, timeliness and costs of the processing and granting of visa classes which provide for or allow for family and partner reunions](#)

30 April 2020

Submitted To: Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

The legal and policy frameworks governing family reunification unjustly discriminate based on the mode of arrival in Australia.

No compelling case has been put forward by the Government to justify the continuation of these discriminatory and disproportionate laws and policies.

[Improving the Response of the Justice System to Sexual Offences: A Proposed 'Grab and Drag' Offence](#)

1 April 2021

Submitted To: Victorian Law Reform Commission

Liberty Victoria opposes changes to the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) (Crimes Act) to deal specifically with 'Grab and Drag' offences. As noted in Issues Paper I, there are many indictable offences in the Crimes Act that cover the criminal conduct sought to be targeted by these proposed laws.

A specific 'grab and drag' offence related to sexual harm may overlap with existing offences, further complicating existing law. Liberty Victoria has repeatedly highlighted the potential for confusion, misuse, inconsistent application and overcharging where there is potential overlap between proposed and existing offences.

Further, where such new offences may attract presumptive or mandatory sentences, this creates a litany of problems, including a disincentive for accused persons to plead guilty, delay in proceedings, erosion of judicial discretion. Liberty Victoria is also concerned that these kinds of offences will lead to key decisions being made by prosecution authorities as to whether to proceed with such offences, which may operate unfairly and could lead to ambit claims to encourage plea negotiation by accused.

[Surveillance Legislation Amendment \(Identify and Disrupt\) Bill 2020](#)

23 February 2021

Authors: Liberty Victoria and Queensland Council for Civil Liberties

Submitted To: Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

At the outset broadly and generally speaking, the Bill introduces powers for State-authorized hacking (also known as: lawful hacking, government hacking, computer network operations, network exploitative techniques). It is our position that Australia does not have an adequate federal human rights framework. Therefore, should the Bill come into force, Australians do not have sufficient safeguards of their fundamental rights to protect them from abuse of power by authorities.

[Inquiry Into The Use of Cannabis in Victoria](#)

18 February 2021

Submitted To: Legal and Social Issues Committee - Parliament of Victoria

In our view the best way to protect the health of those adults who use cannabis, to protect public health and safety, and to prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria, is to have a controlled legalisation of cannabis possession, use, and limited cultivation as has recently occurred in the ACT. This should be in combination with a responsible health and education-based response, as opposed to the current pathway into the criminal justice system.

[Review of the Electoral Legislation Amendment \(Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform\) Act 2018 \(Cth\)](#)

12 February 2021

Submitted To: Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

The ability of charity groups and non-government advocacy bodies to freely speak on political issues is a key component of a healthy democracy. In this submission, Liberty Victoria discourages proposed changes to electoral laws to reduce the threshold for political campaigners from the current \$500,000 threshold to \$100,000.

Additionally, Liberty Victoria registered our concern with other recommendations

1. Abolish compulsory preferential voting (recommendation 2);
2. Stop non-party campaigners from standing within 100 metres of a polling booth entrance (recommendation 19); and
3. Introduce voter identification laws (recommendation 21).

The above matters have the potential to significantly degrade Australian democracy.

[Improving the Response of the Justice System to Sexual Offences](#)

3 February 2021

Submitted To: Victorian Law Reform Commission

Read our submission to the @VLRC inquiry into Improving the Response of the Justice System to Sexual Offences. Liberty Victoria calls for careful rights-based reform and the introduction of a restorative justice model for suitable matters. "A restorative justice model has the potential to have a long-lasting and wide-reaching impact on criminal justice in Victoria, and improving outcomes for victim-survivors."

Press Releases

[Liberty Victoria Statement on Vaccine Mandates and Vaccine Passports](#)

22 September 2021

COVID-19 has seen unprecedented restrictions on the human rights of Victorians. Where limitations on human rights are a proportionate response to risks to public health, Liberty Victoria has supported those measures. In circumstances where we consider restrictions are not proportionate, we have opposed them.

[20th Anniversary of the Tampa Affair](#)

26 August 2021

On the 26 August 2001, the Norwegian vessel the MV Tampa rescued 433 people seeking asylum who were stranded at sea. Most of those rescued were Hazaras fleeing from the Taliban in Afghanistan.

What followed was a defining moment for our national character.

[Mohamed Semra Awarded the Liberty Victoria Young Voltaire Human Rights Award](#)

13 July 2021

Liberty Victoria is delighted to announce that Mohamed Semra is the 2021 Liberty Victoria Young Voltaire Human Rights Award recipient.

In 2015, Mohamed, a school captain, was one of six students evicted from an Apple store, who were racially profiled as thieves based solely on the colour of their skin. The incident made international headlines after the encounter was filmed and made public.

Since then, Mohamed has continued to be an active human rights advocate and involved in social justice and community activities.

[Joint Media Release: Lack of oversight and transparency in prison disciplinary processes: Ombudsman finds](#)

8 July 2021

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, legal, human rights and civil liberties organisations have called on the Andrews government to take urgent steps to increase transparency and prevent mistreatment behind bars after a new report has highlighted serious deficiencies in disciplinary processes in Victorian prisons.

[Liberty Victoria awards the 2021 Voltaire Empty Chair Award to all refugees and asylum seekers in detention](#)

6 July 2021

In 2021, Liberty Victoria is awarding the Voltaire Empty Chair Award to all refugees and asylum seekers in on and off-shore detention.

A number of individual refugees and asylum seekers in detention were nominated for the 2021 Voltaire Empty Chair Award. In recognition of the human rights work and advocacy that a number of people in detention have been doing over the years, Liberty Victoria decided to award the Empty Chair to all refugees and asylum seekers in detention.

On behalf of refugees and asylum seekers in on and offshore detention the award will be accepted by Mostafar Azimitibar and Craig Foster AM

[Liberty Victoria Calls for Reversal of Cuts to Australians Coming Home and for Responsible Family Reunification](#)

6 July 2021

Liberty Victoria condemns the Federal Government's decision to further [cut arrivals to Australia](#). This was [called for by the Victorian Government](#), amongst others. This is a breach of human rights which will exacerbate the suffering for people who have already been separated from their families for too long.

[Joint Media Release: Human rights and community lawyers urgently seek legal changes to protect against overreach of public safety powers](#)

2 July 2021

Public housing residents continue to be fearful one year on that the hard lockdown could happen again: Human rights and community lawyers, supported by local community organisations, urgently seek legal changes to protect against overreach of public safety powers Public housing residents continue to be fearful one year on that the hard lockdown could happen again: Human rights and community lawyers, supported by local community organisations, urgently seek legal changes to protect against overreach of public safety powers.

[This International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the Andrews Government must do better on OPCAT](#)

1 July 2021

Last week, on the same day that IBAC released its damning report into Victorian prisons, we marked the 15 year anniversary of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) coming into force. And last weekend we marked the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

Reflecting on this past week, and on the looming January 2022 deadline for OPCAT implementation in Victoria, the Andrews Government's failure to progress implementation of a system of robust, independent detention oversight is incomprehensible.

In the year of the 30 year anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Government's failure to consult on culturally appropriate OPCAT implementation for detained Aboriginal people is indefensible.

[Voltaire Human Rights Award 2021 awarded to the Children of Tanya Day](#)

29 June 2021

Liberty Victoria is delighted to announce that the 2021 Voltaire Human Rights Award is being awarded to the Children of Tanya Day.

The children of Tanya Day; Belinda Day, Warren Day, Apryl Day and Kimberly Watson have undertaken a sustained effort over a number of years to fight the injustice that Tanya experienced, highlighting the inappropriateness of public drunkenness laws and advocate for justice for First Nations people, especially those in custody.

[A comment from Michael Stanton - What Does Australian Citizenship Even Mean Any More?](#)

3 May 2021

For the first time in our history, through wars and plagues, the Australian Government proposes to criminalise its citizens seeking to return home with penalties of up to 5 years' imprisonment or fines of \$66,000. During a global pandemic. Of course this doesn't apply to all Australian citizens, but only those who are seeking to return who have recently been to India. Our citizenship now comes with an exclusion clause.

[Liberty Victoria's Rights Advocacy Project Calls for Action on Visa Blindspots](#)

27 April 2021

Liberty Victoria's Rights Advocacy Project is calling for a fairer and more transparent bridging visa system for refugees and people seeking asylum who are waiting in the community for their protection claims to be processed, as part of its latest report 'Bridging the Department's Visa Blindspot'.

The report, being launched at an event tonight, found that denying access to bridging visas with work and study rights to people seeking asylum and refugees significantly impacted people's mental and physical health and placed enormous strain on the community organisations that end up supporting them.

[Liberty Victoria concerned about Morrison Government being prepared to send refugees back to countries where they face a real risk of death, torture or persecution](#)

25 March 2021

In a recent Federal Court proceeding, Alex Hawke, the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, told the Court that he and his Department are prepared to knowingly breach international non-refoulement obligations when removing a person from Australia.

Non-refoulement obligations apply in respect of people who the Australian government have assessed face a very real risk of being killed, tortured, persecuted, or subjected to the death penalty or other serious human rights abuses, in their country of return.

Non-refoulement obligations apply in international law to prevent the forced expulsion of people to places of harm. Australia is a signatory to the international laws that prohibit such acts of the state.

[Liberty Victoria concerned over VicRoads part privatisation](#)

16 March 2021

Liberty Victoria is concerned about data security following the part-privatisation of VicRoads. The data that will become available to private enterprise will be very broad and Liberty Victoria is concerned about the security of it, when in private hands. The data that would include photos which are capable of use for facial recognition, and other personal information including names, dates of birth, addresses, and motor vehicle registrations.

[Liberty Victoria welcomes Court decision concerning the Biloela Family](#)

16 February 2021

Liberty Victoria welcomes the decision handed down by the Full Federal Court today concerning the Biloela family. A unanimous Full Federal Court has upheld the earlier decision of the Honourable Justice Moshinsky that the Minister for Home Affairs denied the youngest child of the Biloela family procedural fairness in the assessment of whether she engaged Australia's international non-refoulement obligations.

We now call on the Minister to provide redress for this long-suffering family – a family who have been embraced by the Australian community – by exercising his powers to grant them visas to remain in this country. We ask that the Minister bring them home.

[Liberty Victoria Calls on Government to find COVID-safe ways for Protest Activity](#)

22 January 2021

Liberty Victoria is disappointed in the Premier's reported comments this week that now is not the time to be protesting. Freedom of expression, the right of peaceful assembly and freedom of association are fundamental human rights protected by the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. Those rights are also fundamental to a healthy democracy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown unprecedented challenges at governments and as a society, we have shown that we can adapt and innovate to those challenges as they arise. Liberty Victoria is therefore confident that the community and political leaders can find safe ways to manage COVID-19 challenges while still upholding democratic rights, such as freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

[Liberty Victoria welcomes Ombudsmans Report into the Public Housing Hard Lockdown](#)

17 December 2020

Liberty Victoria welcomes today's Ombudsman's Report into the public housing 'hard lockdown' in July of this year.

As the Ombudsman said in her report, "[i]n a just society, human rights are not a convention to be ignored during a crisis, but a framework for how we will treat and be treated as the crisis unfolds."

[Liberty Victoria welcomes bill to prohibit conversion practices](#)

17 December 2020

Victoria can be a place where sexually and gender diverse Victorians can grow up feeling accepted, supported and loved.

Government's Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020 is a very welcome

The Victorian human rights measure. Liberty Victoria applauds this important initiative, and calls on all members of Parliament to support its prompt passage.

[The time has come for responsible, peaceful and socially distanced protest activity to be lawful in the State of Victoria.](#)

5 November 2020

The time has come for it to be made clear that responsible, peaceful and socially distanced protest activity is lawful in the State of Victoria.

Liberty Victoria is very concerned by the recent arrests and issuing of infringement notices for persons engaged in protest activity.

[The proposal to reduce jury sizes from 12 to 8 is wrong and should not be implemented.](#)

14 October 2020

The proposal reported on in the media that there was consideration to reduce jury sizes from 12 to 8 is wrong and should not be implemented. Rather than rush through such a fundamental change to a core institution of our criminal justice system the Parliament ought to introduce practical measures which will significantly increase the number of cases which can be dealt with, without interfering with established rights of citizens.

Instead of reducing fundamental protections and rights of citizens, Liberty Victoria urges that practical measures be introduced that will lead to the resolution of outstanding trials. The majority of criminal charges can be resolved. Chief among such measures should be the capacity for the County and Supreme Courts to provide meaningful sentence indications to accused persons – which provide an accurate indication to accused persons of the sentence they will receive. Liberty Victoria strongly urges the government to introduce such measures as a matter of priority.

Liberty In the News

[Victoria Police officer suspended over video of violent Flinders Street arrest](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC News

Date: September 30, 2021

Author: ABC News

[Mandatory jabs could 'radicalise' anti-vax advocates, experts warn](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: September 23, 2021

Author: Farrah Tomazin and Aisha Dow

[Do mandatory vaccinations actually get people jabbed?](#)

Media Type: Article - Triple J

Date: September 23, 2021

Author: Tamsin Rose

[Arrest footage and teargas raise concerns about Victoria police's use of force to quell protests](#)

Media Type: Article - The Guardian

Date: September 23, 2021

Author: Josh Taylor

[Riot police set for front line at future COVID protests](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: September 20, 2021

Author: John Silvester

[Shutdown of the Melbourne CBD](#)

Media Type: Audio - 3AW

Date: September 17, 2021

Author: 3AW

[Police to put ring of steel around Melbourne CBD to stop lockdown protest](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun

Date: September 16, 2021

Author: Aneeka Simonis

[Public transport shutdown planned to thwart protests](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC News

Date: September 16, 2021

Author: ABC News

[Government, police defend CBD shutdown as protesters plan to continue with rally](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: September 16, 2021

Author: Simone Fox Koob

[Melbourne's high-flying lawyers: powerful figures on Victoria's legal scene](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun

Date: September 9, 2021

Author: Sarah Booth

[Prisoner bashed by guards unable to access body-camera footage](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: September 6, 2021

Author: Richard Baker

[State to ban swastika as part of anti-vilification reform](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: September 2, 2021

Author: Erin Pearson

[Sister Acts: The life and times of Brigid Arthur](#)

Media Type: Article - The Monthly

Date: September 2, 2021

Author: Jack Serong

[Melbourne's Covid rules threaten to create division between police, community](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun

Date: August 19, 2021

Author: Aneeka Simonis , Mitch Clarke , Mark Buttler and Miles Proust

[Effect of curfew extremely difficult to measure, experts say](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: August 18, 2021

Author: Simone Fox Koob and Liam Mannix

[24 new local Covid cases, possible playground transmission, mystery cases linked to St Kilda](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun

Date: August 17, 2021

Author: Mitch Clarke , Eliza Sum , Kieran Rooney , Sarah Perillo and John Dagge

[Victoria records 24 new local COVID-19 cases as Melbourne wakes to tougher lockdown rules](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC News

Date: August 17, 2021

Author: ABC News

[Mohamed Semra Empowering human rights advocate](#)

Media Type: Article - Maribyrnong Messenger

Date: August 16, 2021

Author: Maribyrnong Council

[Melbourne Covid-19 curfew is pointless, say police and experts](#)

Media Type: Article - The Australian

Date: August 16, 2021

Author: Rachel Baxendale

[Experts back tough new restrictions as only way to avoid disastrous outbreak](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: August 16, 2021

Author: Melissa Cunningham, Aisha Dow and Sumeyya Ilanbey

[New crackdown for Victorians evading Covid fines](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun

Date: August 11, 2021

Author: Aneeka Simonis and Kieran Rooney

[FINE MESS: Premier @DanielAndrewsMP digs in amid growing calls for fines issued on vulnerable Victorians, to be waived](#)

Media Type: Video - 10 News

Date: August 11, 2021

Author: Simon Love

[Six New Judges Appointed To County Court](#)

Media Type: Article - Mirage News

Date: August 10, 2021

[Tanya Day's children honoured for 'instrumental' advocacy](#)

Media Type: Article - Riverine Herald

Date: August 2, 2021

Author: Liberty Victoria

[Family of death-in-custody victim Tanya Day honoured for law reform activism](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: August 2, 2021

Author: Jack Latimore

[Young human rights activist lauded](#)

Media Type: Article - Star Weekly

Date: July 28, 2021

Author: Goya Dmytryshchak

[Mohamed Semra: human rights award for former school captain kicked out of Apple store at Highpoint Shopping Centre.](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun

Date: July 15, 2021

Author: Craig Dunlop

[How locking more people in prison actually makes Victoria 'less safe'](#)

Media Type: Audio - 3AW

Date: July 8, 2021

[2021 Empty Chair Award to all refugees and asylum seekers in on and off-shore detention.](#)

Media Type: Article - The Guardian

Date: July 7, 2021

Author: Ben Doherty

[Liberty Victoria condemns cap on Australian arrivals](#)

Media Type: Audio - 3AW

Date: July 6, 2021

Author: Liberty Victoria

[Liberty Victoria comes out swinging about international arrival caps](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC

Date: July 6, 2021

Author: Dennielle Maguire

[Police union, opposition and lawyers demand protection of QR data](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: June 22, 2021

Author: Michael Fowler

[Police attempted to access QR check-in data three times in December](#)

Media Type: Audio - 3AW Newstalk

Date: June 22, 2021

Author: Ross and Russel

[Andrews government secretly negotiating permanent pandemic laws to replace state of emergency](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: June 15, 2021

Author: Michael Fowler

[Keep tough bail laws, says police union, as Greens try to wind them back](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: May 17, 2021

Author: Tammy Mills, Royce Millar and Chris Vedelago

[Asylum seekers denied access to bridging visas work illegal jobs to survive as advocates call for change](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC News
Date: May 4, 2021
Author: Oliver Gordon

[Critics blast federal government's 'immoral and un-Australian' ban on citizens returning from India](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC News
Date: May 2, 2021
Author: Jacob Kagi

[The Age of Surveillance - A Different Lens](#)

Media Type: Video - Monash University
Date: April 22, 2021
Author: Monash University

[Criminal justice parliamentary inquiry to probe appointment of judges, magistrates](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun
Date: April 15, 2021
Author: Shannon Deery

[Temporary visas for asylum seekers are no solution](#)

Media Type: Article - Green Left
Date: April 15, 2021
Author: Chris Slee

[Morning Program - Ali Moore speaks to Liberty Victoria's Michael Stanton](#)

Media Type: Audio - Mornings - ABC Radio Melbourne
Date: April 13, 2021
Author: Ali Moore

[Judges push for more powers to control who is placed on sex offenders register](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age
Date: April 13, 2021
Author: David Estcourt

[Rapists and sex offenders could live unchecked in the community under radical law push by Victorian judges](#)

Media Type: Article - Herald Sun
Date: April 13, 2021
Author: Shannon Deery

[Confusion over at-risk refugees treatment](#)

Media Type: Article - Brinkware
Date: March 29, 2021
Author: Jonathon Edwards

['Fair go' protests for detained refugees](#)

Media Type: Article - Shepparton News
Date: March 28, 2021
Author: AAP Newswire

[Controversial Spent Convictions Bill passes Vic parliament](#)

Media Type: Article - The Mercury
Date: March 18, 2021
Author: Shannon Deery

[Liberty Victoria's Justice Legislation Amendment Bill submission referred to in Vic Parliament](#)

Media Type: Article - Hansard
Date: March 16, 2021
Author: Victorian Parliament

[New pathway for organising protests under COVID: A MALS review](#)

Media Type: Article - Melbourne Activist Legal Support
Date: March 16, 2021
Author: MALS

[Civil society 'ignored' on hacking bill inquiry](#)

Media Type: Article - InnovationAus
Date: March 15, 2021
Author: Denham Sadler

[Eight teenagers and a literal nun are taking on environment minister Sussan Ley](#)

Media Type: Article - The Guardian
Date: March 5, 2021
Author: First Dog on the Moon

[A duty of care: Australian teenagers take their climate crisis plea to court](#)

Media Type: Article - The Guardian
Date: March 2, 2021
Author: Adam Morton

[Climate campaign teens prepare for court battle with minister over coal expansion](#)

Media Type: Article - Sydney Morning Herald
Date: February 28, 2021
Author: Miki Perkins

['Deeply unethical': Royal Children's Hospital, Neighbourhood Watch Victoria hit by Facebook ban](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age
Date: February 18, 2021
Author: Liam Mannix and Rachel Clun

[Have the Bilo Tamil family been given a fair go?](#)

Media Type: Audio - The Briefing.Podcast
Date: February 17, 2021
Author: Tom Tilley

[Planned AFP data powers are like Minority Report](#)

Media Type: Article - InnovationAus

Date: February 15, 2021

Author: Denham Sadler

[Police seize 90 firearms using controversial 'warrantless' searches](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: February 5, 2021

Author: Chris Vedelago

[Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Media Type: Article - Parliament of Victoria

Date: February 2, 2021

Author: Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

[How Victoria's year from hell battling coronavirus has changed the state](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC News

Date: January 24, 2021

Author: Joseph Dunstan

[Police flag 'grab and drag' gap as review mulls new offence](#)

Media Type: Article - WA Today

Date: January 23, 2021

Author: Simone Fox Koob

[Police to drop most COVID-19 fines and hand out cautions](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: January 18, 2021

Author: Cameron Houston and Carolyn Webb

[Human rights advocates call on government to assist 'stranded' Victorians](#)

Media Type: Audio - 3AW

Date: January 13, 2021

Author: Tony Jones

[EDITORIAL Victoria's treatment of its own residents is not proportionate, fair or reasonable](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: January 13, 2021

Author: Gay Alcorn

[Liberty Victoria Comment on Border Closure](#)

Media Type: Video - Channel 7

Date: January 13, 2021

[Vic Permits Add to Border Turmoil](#)

Media Type: Article - The Herald Sun

Date: January 13, 2021

Author: Shannon Deery and Olivia Jenkins

[Call for more clarity on border closure triggers](#)

Media Type: Article - The Age

Date: January 12, 2021

Author: Tammy Mills, Michael Fowler and Mary Ward

[3700 'border exiles' mired in Covid limbo](#)

Media Type: Article - The Australian

Date: January 7, 2021

Author: Rachel Baxendale

[Liberty Victoria hits out at 'draconian' border closure leaving Victorians shunned](#)

Media Type: Audio - 3AW

Date: January 6, 2021

Author: Heidi Murphy

[Overuse of Fines - 10 News](#)

Media Type: Video - 10 News

Date: December 15, 2020

Author: 10 News

[Vice President of Liberty Victoria says that drones are a significant incursion of people's privacy](#)

Media Type: Audio - 3AW

Date: October 23, 2020

Author: Tom Elliott

[Channel 7 News - Police Drones on Grand Final Day](#)

Media Type: Video - Channel 7

Date: October 23, 2020

[Electronic tag plan for travellers as shift from hotel quarantine considered](#)

Media Type: Article - The Brisbane Times

Date: October 20, 2020

Author: Sumeyya Ilanbey

[What is the point of fines](#)

Media Type: Audio - ABC Radio

Date: October 19, 2020

Author: Breakfast Program

[Only a tiny fraction of Victoria's lockdown fines have been paid](#)

Media Type: Article - ABC News

Date: October 14, 2020

Author: ABC News

Become a Civil Rights Defender

If you believe:

- ... that all people should be treated equally, with dignity and fairness
- ... that those in power should be held accountable
- ... that freedom must be defended
- ... that day by day, governments and powerful corporations are chipping away at the freedom, dignity and autonomy of ordinary people.

Then now is the time to become a Civil Rights Defender.

There has never been a more vital time for people like you, who support human rights, civil liberties and our fundamental freedoms; to stand up for human rights and lend Liberty Victoria your support. Join the fight today.

Yes, I'll become a Civil Rights Defender!

I'll give: \$20 \$25 \$30 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____
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Victorian Council for Civil Liberties Inc
Reg No: A0026497L

GPO Box 3161
Melbourne, VIC 3001

t 03 9670 6422

info@libertyvictoria.org.au

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