



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY	
HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY	Policy No:
	Adopted by Council: 11 Mar 2010
	Next review date:
Senior Manager:	Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Functional Area:	Governance
Introduction & Background	<p>The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 came into effect on 1 January 2008.</p> <p>This means that all of Council's policies, procedures, processes and Local Laws need to be compatible with the Charter and consistent with the human rights protected under it.</p>
Purpose & Objectives	The human rights contained in the Charter are considered the foundation for freedom, justice, peace and respect, and are an essential part of any democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law, human dignity and equality.
Definitions	The Charter means The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
Policy Details	
1.	Requirements of the Charter
	<p>The Charter requires that all public authorities, including Councils, comply with the twenty specific rights protected under the Charter.</p> <p>The Charter contains four basic principles: Freedom, Respect, Equality and Dignity.</p>
2.	The Charter – Principle 1 – Freedom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom from forced work. • Freedom of movement. • Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief. • Freedom of expression. • Right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property rights. • Rights to liberty and security of person. • Fair hearing. • Rights in criminal proceeding. • Right not to be tried and punished more than once for a crime. • Protection from retrospective criminal laws.
3.	<p>The Charter – Principle 2 – Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to life. • Protection of families and children. • Cultural rights, including recognition that human rights have a special importance for the Indigenous people of Victoria.
4.	<p>The Charter – Principle 3 – Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition and equality before the law. • Entitlement to participate in public life (including voting).
5.	<p>The Charter – Principle 4 – Dignity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment. • Protection of privacy and reputation. • Humane treatment when deprived of liberty. • Appropriate treatment of children in the criminal process.
6.	<p>Compliance</p> <p>Council is therefore required to ensure that it remains compliant with the Charter, for example, with regard to its everyday operations, policies, procedures, processes, Local Laws, access to services and interactions with the community and all staff have a part to play in ensuring this.</p> <p>If you have any queries or concerns regarding human rights or how this affects you, please contact the Chief Executive Officer of West Wimmera Shire Council.</p>



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