

Charles Darwin Symposium Securing Territorians' Rights - Statehood and a Bill of Rights?

Academic Seminar: Panel member abstract

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Australia's changing federalism: Where do rights fit in?

This presentation will explore the 'radical centralization' of the Australian federal system from an historical perspective with particular emphasis on the past decade – the era of Howard centralism. It will be argued that the Australian federal system, far from being a protector of rights and liberties against a powerful central state, can be seen to inhibit the defence of human rights in contemporary Australia. The paper concludes that Australia now needs to revise its federal system comprehensively and that at the heart of this revision there should be a constitutionally entrenched bill of rights.