



**Edward Santow**

**Human Rights Commissioner**

FIVE YEAR TERM CONCLUDES  
28 JULY 2021

*The touchstone of human rights is dignity. The human rights framework provides practical tools to protect the dignity of all members of our community.*

Commissioner Santow concludes his term in the period of this Corporate Plan. Until the appointment of the next Human Rights Commissioner, the key portfolio programs will be overseen by the President.

**Human rights and technology project**

- This Project was prompted by unprecedented technological development, and especially the increasing use of artificial intelligence in ways that can engage our human rights. The Project identified the challenges and opportunities that new technologies bring to the protection and promotion of human rights in Australia and addressed the risks of harm.
- The Final Report was published in May 2021, following two national public consultation rounds and the publication of Issues, White and Discussion Papers. The Commission will work with public and private stakeholders to support implementation of the 38 recommendations for law and policy reform. This year the project will include a webinar series to socialise the report, and the development of education and training materials to support a human rights approach to the development and use of AI and accessible technology, and of principles on the application of international human rights law in the development and use of AI.

**Asylum seeker, refugee and immigration detention program**

- This work aims to improve human rights protection in Australia's immigration system. The focus will be to examine and generate solutions for the problem of prolonged and indefinite immigration detention. This will involve inspections of immigration detention facilities in Australia. Other ongoing work will include oversight of COVID-19 management in immigration detention facilities following the Commission's targeted review on this issue and advocacy and engagement on the human rights implications of policies affecting asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants residing in the Australian community.

**Sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status program**

- This work aims to improve human rights protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. There are two focus areas: releasing a report resulting from our work examining the human rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics in the context of medical interventions, and the development of a discussion paper examining serious harms experienced by people on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, as well as follow up advocacy to implement the discussion paper recommendations.