

**STATEMENT BY FRAN KILGARIFF
CO-CHAIR
NORTHERN TERRITORY CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
COMMITTEE**

NT SHOULD NOT BE A LESSER STATE

The Northern Territory Constitutional Convention Committee supports the Territory becoming an equal state.

Media reported on 18 April 2011 that a Charles Darwin University academic said Statehood for the Northern Territory would still allow the Commonwealth to override legislation.

Professor Rolf Gerritsen is reported to have said:

The Commonwealth under section 121 of the Constitution is allowed to say okay the Northern Territory will become a state. But assuming then our democratically elected legislature passes the euthanasia bill there's nothing to stop the Commonwealth amending the act in the same ways it amended the Self Government Act to override it.

The Australian Constitution states that the Commonwealth Parliament may admit or establish new states and *"may upon such admission or establishment make or impose such terms and conditions, including the extent or representation in either house of the Parliament, as it thinks fit."*

This is why the former Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee published an Information Paper in January this year entitled *What Might the Terms and Conditions of Northern Territory Statehood Be?*

"The people of the Territory deserve equality and need to know if we would be an equal state.

"It appears unlikely that the Commonwealth could discriminate against one state over others in the long term as the Constitution does not permit discrimination between the states by the Commonwealth". Fran Kilgariff said today.

Territorians are getting ready for developing a new constitution to lead the way by developing a framework of governance better than any exiting State constitution.

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