

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 January 2018 12:53 PM
To: Policy AGD
Subject: Anti-Discrimination Act (1993) Amendments - Protest to Changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I believe that some of the proposed changes would have a significant impact on the ability of religious schools to protect, preserve and perpetuate their vision for religious education in the Northern Territory.

I therefore protest some of the proposed changes, on the basis that if amended schools or clubs of any religion or culture may not continue to deny or grant employment based on the alignment of religious beliefs. I believe that if a Muslim parent wants their child to go to a Muslim school the school should be able to employ only Muslim teachers if they so choose. This should also be true for Catholic Schools, Christian Schools etc.

An analogy; If I join a tennis club its expected that I will play and support tennis. I would expect the president to be a tennis veteran. It should be the tennis club's decision to decide whether the president is an ex-cricketer, the choice is theirs. If I want my Holden serviced I take it to Holden who employ Holden mechanics over and above Toyota mechanics, the same is true for religion. I don't want my kids to go to a Muslim school, but others do, so let their school have the freedom to employ teachers who are aligned with that religion.

If the Anti-Discrimination Act is to serve the community then its important to remember that these freedoms are important for our community, we all have different talents and abilities and cultural diversities. It is not logical for our community to promote multi-culturalism and call us all to 'embrace' our diversity, but not support these same intuitions with the legislative freedoms to sustain or promote themselves according to their identity. They should be able to choose their members or employees.

As Politicians it maybe wise to consider political parties; for example if I want to join the young liberals party, then my membership should be logically based on the alignment of my political views. It is unlikely that the labour party would accept a Liberal, or a green party member. If we make the proposed amendments, aren't we 'white anting' the very foundations of our democracy? In time wont this be a real concern?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the importance of religious freedom for faith-based educational institutions and the right of parents to choose the type of education their children receive is paramount. Please do not make any amendments that prevent any institution from discriminating within the employment or membership process based on religion or any other cultural diversity.

I also request for the report on the public consultation be released at the appropriate time

kind regards

[REDACTED]