

Dear Ms Witham

I would like to submit my concerns on the proposed changes to the Act and the possible misuses of the Act.

Freedom of expression, thought and beliefs should not be denied to Territorians. It is disturbing that minorities can shut these down by using anti-vilification laws. Racism is racism. Discrimination is discrimination. Too often racism and discrimination only applies in one direction. This is unhealthy and instead of bridging any gaps only serves to widen them.

To comment on the questions asked:

Questions 1, 2 & 3

No. There is male and female. Those that push transgender identity and sexual orientation are trying to close down freedom of speech and thought - to make everyone comply with their agenda. Where does it stop? Paedophilia? Incest? Polygamy?

Question 10

No. A representative complaint model is open to abuse and misunderstanding. It can be used by self interest groups to push their agenda.

Question 12

The phrase "sexual harassment" is open to abuse. Simply touching a person's arm can end in a sexual harassment claim. Care must be taken in defining what constitutes sexual harassment.

Question 14

No. This would be so wrong on a number of levels. To remove the exemptions would open up churches, schools, businesses to be targeted by groups wanting to shut them down. Freedom of religion will be no more.

Question 20

No. We are biologically a man or a woman.

I say again that freedom of expression, thought and beliefs should not be denied to Territorians. People should not fear expressing their opinions, thoughts and beliefs.

Regards

