



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 4:59 PM
To: Policy AGD
Subject: Response to the Anti-Discrimination Act Amendments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Ms Sarah Witham,

Please find my comments regarding the Discussion Paper for the Anti-Discrimination Act below.

Modernisation Reforms

Question 3.

It is without question that people be protected from vilification for any reason and it is important that this be emphasised in the Act.

It is also incredibly important that the exemptions are clearly in place. The loss of freedom of speech and the ability to share one's own opinion in a critical part of being both Australian and a Territorian. It is the freedom of speech and sharing opinions that helps us become a nation of Critical Thinkers who can respectfully disagree and build robust societies based on solid foundations.

New Reforms

Representative Complaint Model

Whilst I understand the need for people to have a voice and make a complaint I am concerned about the phrase 'A representative complaint could be lodged without obtaining individual consent of each person who may assist the subject of the complaint.' To my mind this suggests that someone could take away my freedom and make a complaint on my behalf. This is dangerous and I believe takes away much of what this reform is about. Each person should have the opportunity and right to refuse to be a part of a complaint being made.

Removing content that Enshrines Discrimination.

Section 37A does not enshrine discrimination. Section 37A allows organisations to have freedom of belief and to build a culture within the organisation that supports their religious beliefs. This is true of all religious schools and it is important to acknowledge that it is discriminatory to deny people their ability to have a religious affiliation. Christian schools have a distinct culture that would suffer if Christian schools were required to employ people of other faiths. I would suggest that the same would be said if the school were affiliated to another religion. It is the right of any Australian to choose the environment in which their child is schooled and they should not be prevented from their child being educated in line with their religious beliefs.

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Choosing to employ people of like faith is a freedom that should be upheld.

It is so important that in ensuring we do not discriminate we do not remove the freedoms that we value as Australians. As a Christian I seek to value all people and care for them no matter their colour, creed, sexuality, gender etc. I am committed to helping those who are unable to help themselves and working towards equity and justice in our community. As a Christian I would like to continue to have the right to faith, to raise my children according to that faith, and to share my faith. To do this I require freedom to make choices for myself just as I encourage others to make their own.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter.

Kind Regards

