

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on extension of anti-discrimination laws

As an Australian citizen I am deeply troubled by the proposed changes to the "anti-discrimination" laws.

The proposed changes are not merely consolidation of existing laws but involve very serious changes with wide-ranging impacts.

I submit that any such action undertaken in this way without proper transparent public consultation, debate, review and research would be reckless.

1) I ask that no changes be made to extend the anti-discrimination law.

The degree of laws and controls to which we are subject is already costly and "nanny-state".

2) I oppose and take issue with any anti-discrimination law based on sexuality and gender identity

Such laws are a direct attack on our basic rights and freedoms - freedoms that we have largely enjoyed and protected in this country to date.

Such laws have been demonstrated from experience overseas and in Australia to have serious impacts on freedom of religion and freedom of speech. To force people to act against their conscience and fundamental beliefs - which is a form of abuse - to effectively deny people the right to express or debate what should be legitimate views and to deny people religious freedom would be a terrible tragedy for Australia.

These kind of laws force people to act, choose, gather and discuss issues "underground" or in non-transparent or open forums to avoid retribution and actually promote division in society rather than inclusion.

Our freedoms of choice, speech and religion are fundamental to our nation's democracy and should not be outlawed.

These proposals are reminiscent of fascist / totalitarian - like regime actions to control people's behaviour and have no place in Australia - I for one (of many) do not want more "big brother" laws / control.

Faithfully,

James Booth