

To the Assistant Secretary
Human Rights Policy Branch,
Attorney General's Department

Submission: Consolidation of Commonwealth Anti-discrimination laws.

As we have abundantly seen both here and overseas, anti-discrimination laws only serve to divide the community, remove freedom of choice, and create new populations to persecute. Australia needs to avoid any extensions to anti-discrimination law. Other ample protections exist for people of alternative gender identities and sexuality choices. Differing community groups should be encouraged to dialogue not legislate.

Freedom of choice and freedom of religion have been decimated by legislation disallowing these freedoms which have traditionally been the basis of our democracy. Take for instance the case involving an adventure resort which for reason of freedom of choice and freedom of religion chose not to offer its facilities to a group that held opposing convictions. This case was taken to court and the adventure resort was told that it had no right to abide by its own free choices and no right to abide by its religious beliefs. This legislation encouraged fighting rather than valuing the differences between these two groups. It denied the opportunity for these two groups to be supported to live in community with one another, each respecting the other but not being forced to act in a particular way by the State.

The problem is not peculiar to Australia but is occurring across the world wherever the ill conceived legislation exists. We want an Australian community of Freedom, not a tangle of warring 'tribes'. We do NOT want more anti-discrimination legislation.

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