Christian Porter,

Dear Mr Porter,

Multicultural communities are facing a rising threat of hate crimes, particularly Islamophobia.

Community centres and places of worship are being vandalised, people are being confronted with violent verbal or even physical abuse when going about their daily lives, and Neo-Nazis gather to sing songs about killing migrants.

A Religious Discrimination Bill could be a powerful way for communities of colour to protect ourselves from hate crime. However, the draft exposure bill does not even include a definition of vilification.

I call on you to ensure that a definition of vilification is included in the bill. Alongside a clear definition of religion that allows for religions other than mono-theistic ones.

Additionally, sections 8 and 41 are problematic. Where health professionals can discriminate and refuse service simply based on a religious belief. Or the very specific instances around workplace discrimination that could be better dealt with through the Fair Work Commission.

I urge you to reconsider these aspects of the bill and to create one that is more in line with standard anti-discrimination laws.