Religious Discrimination Bill – Exposure Draft

Your Submission

With regard to the proposed Bill, on behalf of the world’s longest continuously running diverse in gender and sexuality radio program - Queer Radio Brisbane (along with Dykes on Mykes, broadcasting from the studios of 4ZZZ 102.1FM in Brisbane), our submission to the Attorney-General is to not proceed with any alterations to, or additional legislation for the current freedoms enjoyed by those living in Australia in their practice of a religious faith, or, the decision not to practice or support a particular religious faith.

As a community broadcaster, we are mindful of the effect increased so-called "protection" for religious organisations would have on our community, by granting special privileges that are not currently available to other Australians. We stand against the creation of special classes of discrimination that would allow those who purport to hold a religious belief the ability to unfairly and maliciously discriminate against members of our marginalised diverse in gender and sexuality community. We cover many issues on a weekly basis in our radio program which is heard not only in Brisbane, but throughout Australia and worldwide, and have frequently sought the voices of people of faith from our community, and they are unanimous in their opposition to any such Bill or changes to current legislation that would entrench further marginality.

Decisions to proactively discriminate and revile people of the diverse in gender and sexuality community have consequences - family breakdown, unhealthy lifestyle practices (such as drug and alcohol addiction), increased mental health problems, and ultimately death through suicide or attacks on our community by others who take some comfort that their "religion" calls for our community to be shunned and punished.

There is simply no need for this egregious Bill to proceed to Parliament, and we ask that the Attorney-General withdraw any plans to introduce it at a future sitting of Parliament, or, to amend any of the current laws that offer protection for our community.