

20th December 2012

**Attention: Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee**
P. O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Submission to an inquiry on the Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012

Dear Sir,

By way of introduction, I consider that the title of this proposed Bill is a misnomer because it is discrimination, *ad nauseum*, against our way of life in Australia.

1. Australia's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (ICCPR), are to protect freedom of speech, and not to muzzle it.
2. The Bill seeks to turn Common Law under the Magna Carta 'on its head' by the reversal of onus of proof from the plaintiff to the accused. This is a fundamental and retrogressive change to the culture of justice in Australia.
3. Churches and other religious bodies have the right to religious freedom by definition and no government has the right to interfere with religious beliefs or creeds. Again, Australia is a signatory to the ICCPR.

It may be appropriate to ask ourselves why there appears to be more and more proposed legislation to curb criticism of belief systems outside of the Judeo-Christian ethic, whereas the media can ridicule Christianity with impunity.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Robert Jones.