

Dear members of the committee relating to Nicola Roxon's dangerous new Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

I want it recorded that in my view this bill will infringe on the freedom of speech. I do not accept racial discrimination but this bill goes too far and it will neutralise one of the most important rights and freedoms we have in our society which is the right, with respect, to critique, each others political and religious beliefs.

I worked in Pakistan for about 14 years. I saw that freedom of speech relating to critiquing, in a respectful way, political and religious beliefs was crippled and restricted in a heavy handed way. I believe that the above mentioned bill is moving too far in the direction of the stifling of free speech I saw in Pakistan. Please do not allow this vital part of our free society to be thrown out with the baby in the bath of political correctness.

In appreciation of your work and investigation.

Barry Lock -- \