

10th December 2012

To the Chair
Legal and Constitutional Committee of the Senate

Dear Sir,

In response to the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012 as presented on the website, I have consulted with the Heads of Churches at our meeting on Monday 10th Dec held in the NSW Parliament House and they have agreed that I submit the following as a needed addition to the proposed Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

As extra clause is needed under **Division 4, subdivision D – Other exceptions**

“Comments either oral or written made in the legitimate pursuit of academic, religious, philosophical, political enquiry or evaluative commentary in respect of religious writings, academic research or on any other statements made in books, journals, media or any other publicly available printed material, are deemed to be exempt from the Act provided that such freedoms of discourse both oral and written are not discriminatory under the terms of the Act and are consistent with the relevant provisions of the human rights instruments under Division 2, Section 6, Sub-sections 32-33 of the Act and are consistent with the expressed and implied freedoms included in the Australian Constitution”.

I am happy to engage in any issue which may arise from this.
Yours faithfully,

Canon Dr David Claydon