

Submission on Exposure Draft Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill, 2012

The *Exposure Draft Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill, 2012* would, if enacted, have a dramatic and revolutionary effect on Australian society.

It would seriously restrict the fundamental democratic freedoms of Australians.

It would impose unprecedented governmental authority over the lives of Australians.

Without the approval of the Australian people, such an increase in government and bureaucratic power over their lives is indefensible.

There is no mandate whatsoever for the Parliament neither to enact nor even for or the government to introduce such a Bill, a Bill which has come from nowhere and has surprised and outraged the nation.

In brief, the Bill would, if enacted,;

- alone in democratic world, declare unlawful conduct which does no more than offend;
- greatly encourage litigation based only on being offended;
- reverse our ancient privilege, that the onus of proof be on the accuser;
- create a parasitic industry which will support and encourage such litigation;
- limit dramatically our freedom of speech and freedom of political communication;
- gag our free press and our free media;
- gag and inhibit Australians in political communication, including communication electronically and in the social media;
- attempt to extend dramatically the power of the Federal Parliament, the federal government and the federal bureaucracy by a novel expansion of the external affairs power beyond that ever intended by our founders and never authorised by the Australian people;
- attempt to subjugate the states;
- impair our freedom of religion, and;

- interfere in matters no concern whatsoever of government or bureaucracy in a free and democratic society.

This is especially of concern in our Commonwealth of Australia, one of the world's oldest continuing democracies, one which our predecessors laboured to establish and to defend, many even giving their lives in the defence of our democracy.

Accordingly, CANdo submits that this bill is unacceptable and indeed outrageous and should be rejected in its totality, the government having no mandate whatsoever to introduce such a monstrosity.