

Dear Sirs,

I believe the Draft Exposure Bill before the Committee should be rejected in its entirety. By-and-large it is unfortunate that anti-discrimination legislation has only served to limit the legitimate rights of individuals, dramatically increase costs to business, and engender a spirit of unmerited entitlement amongst particular classes of Australians. The Exposure Bill's strengthening and furthering of anti-discrimination is therefore unwanted and will damage Australia.

Of particular concern to me is the burden the Bill places on Religious Bodies and Educational Institutions. Even though exemptions are given, these exemptions are only applicable if the discrimination (i) conforms to the doctrines, tenets or beliefs of that religion; or (ii) is necessary to avoid injury to the religious sensitivities of adherents of that religion.

The problem here is that in court it is extremely difficult, not to mention costly, to convince a magistrate about doctrinal matters and 'religious sensitivities'. And with the Bill also moving the burden of proof to the respondent, this is exactly what religious bodies and educational institutions must do in order to prove that their discrimination is 'justified'.

Please, therefore recommend that this Bill should be rejected in its entirety.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anne O'Dwyer