

FAO the Senate Committee,

I am writing to present a submission on the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

I do not believe that strengthening, streamlining, or unifying anti-discrimination legislation is good for Australians at all. Consequently I believe the entirety of the Bill should be rejected.

Of particular concern is the new provision of this bill ensuring that no provider of aged care services, including religious organisations, with Commonwealth funding can discriminate on grounds of 'gender identity' or 'sexual orientation'.

As you will be well aware, many church denominations and church affiliated institutions run homes for the aged as part of their ministry. I suppose the government is banking that they won't cause much trouble and simply comply, but what if they remain true to their conscience and threaten to pull out of this sector, just as all the Catholic adoption agencies did in the UK? Is the government prepared to find alternative accommodation at often well below market rates for those displaced?

Please recommend the rejection of this Bill.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Diane Newland