

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept our submission to the enquiry into the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

We believe that this Bill would pose great threats to the freedom of Australians if passed by the Parliament. Consequently we believe that the committee should recommend that this Bill not be passed.

One particular problem with this Draft Bill is the forcing of aged care institutions not to discriminate based on the new protected attributes of 'gender identity' and 'sexual orientation'. This presents a great threat of persecution for the Christians in many of the church denominations who provide such services. God has given humankind only two genders which He determines at conception, and God has given us only one legitimate sexual orientation – towards our spouse. To pretend, and enforce that it is discriminatory to uphold these basic truths would make criminals out of the many Christians who work in this sector. A similar thing happened in the UK when, because Catholic adoption agencies could not in good conscience comply with discrimination laws which would have forced them to put a child into the degrading and harmful society of those who openly commit homosexual acts, they all voluntarily closed themselves down (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/7952526/Last-Catholic-adoption-agency-faces-closure-after-Charity-Commission-ruling.html>). Do we really want to run the risk that many of our church-run aged care institutions in Australia will shut down too?

Please therefore recommend that this dangerous Bill not be passed.

Yours sincerely,

Mr & Mrs Terry and Cheryl Young