

Everyone deserves the right to not be discriminated against!

YES! I support the improvements and strengthened protections against discrimination in the exposure draft of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

The draft could be reviewed by:

1. Expanding the types of characteristics protected under the Bill.

Discrimination should be unlawful on the basis of the following additional characteristics: intersex, irrelevant criminal record, status as a victim of domestic or family violence, and social status (i.e. homelessness, unemployment status or receipt of social security payments).

2. Removing permanent and blanket exceptions relating to religious organisations.

While extending protections against discrimination on the basis of a person's religious beliefs should be supported, permanent and blanket exceptions which allow religious organisations to operate outside of accepted community standards should be removed.

3. Strengthening the powers and functions of the Australian Human Rights Commission to enable it to effectively tackle discrimination, and resourcing the Commission accordingly.