

To whom it may concern: I'm writing to urge you to pass the HRAD Bill.

My wife and I have several gay, bisexual, and transgender friends. Virtually all of them have experienced discrimination and bullying in the workplace and elsewhere, ranging from threats of violence to more subtle forms of bullying - e.g. a co-worker refusing to give my friend information she needs to do her job.

Australia is supposed to be the land of the "fair go". If one of my friends is in a same-sex relationship, or if another feels that she was born in the wrong body, why should they be mistreated for something that isn't anybody else's business?

This protection should include the right to equal treatment in all Government-supported organisations - including tax-exempt ones, religious or otherwise - and in aged care. Elderly LGBTI people are as vulnerable as any other Australians - often more so, since they are at high risk of economic disadvantage - and they should receive the same support in old age that any other Australian would expect to receive. And it's an insult to LGBTI people that they should be required to pay taxes alongside the rest of us, and then see those taxes used to support groups that deny them equal treatment.

I also urge you to follow the 2012 Tasmanian definitions for "gender identity" and "intersex". In particular, "intersex" should NOT be treated as an "identity" - it isn't. It is a physical condition.

Regards, Geoffrey Brent