

This is just a short submission to say that I hope the anti-discrimination bill will focus appropriately on protecting gays, lesbians and transgender people from discrimination.

These people have experienced and do experience discrimination within the law. I would like to see the law protect everyone from discrimination in regard to employment, health care/visitation rights and any government-provided service. I would also like to see people who are transgender be able to choose to be represented, in their legal status, the gender with which they identify, without any requirement for things like sexual reassignment surgery - which is both major surgery and very expensive, and should not be a requirement for them to legally change their gender status.

I am not LGBTQ. I am just an Australian who wants to see all Australians be able to live without discrimination, in an Australia where all Australians enjoy the same rights and freedoms that I do.

I know you will receive many submissions and I'm sure many will express valuable ideas. But please remember that human rights and equality should not rely on popular opinion. Please set aside suggestions that are based in prejudiced views, even if they are significant in number. I feel particularly strongly that there have been some lobby groups arguing against civil rights for LGBTQ citizens based on religious ideas. These ideas should not be equally weighted against the ideals of justice for all and equality, because Australia is a secular society, where no religion or religious viewpoint should be favoured in the law.

Thank you.

Deborah Hoad