

Dear Senate Committee members,

I urge the committee to recommend that the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Bill 2013 should not be made law.

The additional grounds of 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' should not be added to the Sex Discrimination Act 1984. Not only do these grounds depend only on a person's chosen identity or behaviour, but anything other than sexual orientation between a man and his wife, and any gender identity different from the one God has given to us are sin. The very rare genetic or developmental condition resulting in intersex condition is different, however, and my submission will not deal with this aspect of the Bill.

Furthermore, the exemptions solely for religious bodies, charities and religious schools are completely inadequate for the vast majority of Christians. The many Christians who run or are employed by businesses would be forced by law to act against their conscience in choosing who to hire or do business with.

When similar laws to prevent 'discrimination' against homosexuals were passed in the UK, there were many examples of Christians who were fined or lost their jobs.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9617792/Gay-couple-turned-away-from-BandB-win-discrimination-case.html>, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/apr/29/court-dismisses-christian-employment-appeal>.

Government lawyers in the UK now interpret these laws as saying 'Christians should leave their beliefs at home or get another job' <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9520026/Christians-should-leave-their-beliefs-at-home-or-get-another-job.html>

This will happen in Australia too unless this Bill is defeated.

This form letter, and variations to the form letter, was received from the following submitters:

Mr Alan Alford

Mr Fred Bramich

Mr Bruce Burger

Mr Mark Cosstick

Rev Warwick Davidson

Mr Giulio di Somma

Mr David Forster

Mrs Glenda Furness

Mr Matthew Grinter

Dr and Mrs Christopher and Katharina Hopwood

Mr Jeremy and Mrs Rachel Hopwood

Mr Dirk Jackson

Mr and Mrs Nigel and Christine Lau

Mrs Linasari Lean

Ms Tarei MacPherson

Mr Ian and Mrs Dianne Mullins

Mrs Anne O'Dwyer

Mr Martin Oldenburger

Mrs Judy Reid

Mrs Patricia Ride

Dr Mansel Rogerson

Mr and Mrs Lawrence and Gill Rutherford

Pastor Barrie Ryan

Mr Stuart and Mrs Laraine Ryder

Mr John Shenton

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