

This is a submission of our concerns re the Draft Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012:

We are concerned about many of the proposed changes to the present bill, namely

1. At present our Freedom of Speech is guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and by Australian law. We ask that this is not changed as proposed in the new bill.
2. Under our present legal system an accused is innocent until proved guilty. We ask that this remains and that the onus of proof continue to be on the complainant.
3. Exemptions for churches and faith based agencies to employ people of their own religious beliefs must remain as now and not be under review every three years. Australians have long enjoyed the right to freedom of association and this is guaranteed by the ICCPR.
4. We ask that the "protected attributes" continue as now and not be changed in any way.

Yours sincerely,  
John and Dorothy Wheeler