

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current proposals to amend the human rights and anti-discrimination laws. In my view, to expand the definition 'discrimination' to include behaviour that may offend or insult is an unjustified infringement on the essential human right to free speech, and is likely to offend the right to freedom of religion.

It is never pleasant to be offended or feel insulted but I don't think anyone needs to be legally protected from what is essentially a much less significant impact than incitement to hatred or violence, or severe humiliation. Legal sanction should be reserved to punish serious problems, and to make such a law is an invitation to vexatious and baseless litigation.

Yours sincerely,

Jennie Pakula