

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed legislation aimed at addressing antisemitism at Australian universities. While I acknowledge the importance of combating all forms of discrimination, racism, and hate speech, I believe that creating legislation specifically targeting one form of discrimination risks setting a precedent that could fragment the broader approach to equality and fairness in our educational institutions.

#### Key Points of Objection:

##### 1. Equality Under the Law:

- Australia prides itself on equality for all its citizens, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. Legislation that singles out one group could inadvertently suggest that not all forms of discrimination are treated with the same gravity.

##### 2. Existing Frameworks:

- Universities already have comprehensive policies under the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, the Fair Work Act 2009, and other legal frameworks that address discrimination and harassment. These laws are meant to cover all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism, without the need for additional, specific legislation.

##### 3. Risk of Over-Legislation:

- Introducing this bill could lead to a slippery slope where every discriminated group might demand similar specific protections, resulting in a complex and potentially contradictory legal landscape rather than a unified approach to equality.

##### 4. Academic Freedom:

- There is a legitimate concern that such legislation might be misused to limit free speech on campuses, potentially affecting academic discourse on sensitive political and international issues.

##### 5. Community Relations:

- This legislation could be perceived as divisive, potentially straining community relations by implying that one form of discrimination is more significant than another, which might not foster the inclusive environment we all seek.

Proposed Alternative:

- **Strengthen Existing Policies:** Instead of creating new legislation, resources should be directed towards reinforcing and enforcing the existing legal frameworks that protect against all forms of discrimination.
- **Education and Awareness:** Universities should be encouraged to enhance education on diversity, equity, and inclusion, fostering an environment where all forms of discrimination are actively discussed and addressed.
- **Universal Anti-Discrimination Initiatives:** Support should be given to initiatives that tackle discrimination universally, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, feel supported and safe.
- **Transparent Reporting:** Implement clearer, more robust reporting mechanisms for all forms of discrimination, ensuring accountability and transparency across the board.

I urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the approach with this bill. While the intent to protect against antisemitism is commendable, the method should not risk undermining the principle that all Australians are equal under the law. We need to uphold a system where every individual's rights are protected equally without creating special categories that could lead to further division.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I look forward to seeing a more holistic approach to addressing discrimination in our educational institutions.