

Submission to the Senate Committee on the Tax Laws Amendment (Public Benefit Test) Bill 2010

The more I think about the proposed legislation, the more implications I see. So, I have taken the unusual step of making a small second submission (I made one on 17 June 2010). Our modern trend towards pernicious and authoritarian legislation in many different areas of is a threat to the general morale of citizens, which should not be underestimated. I note the following:

- a) Here we have firebrand politicians not being able to make allegations or prejudices against targeted religions “stick” and trying the cheat’s way of dodgy legislation
- b) There can be a difference between stated intent of law, versus actual intent of law and the intention or effects of its administration (I have read George Orwell’s 1894 cover to cover)
- c) The intent of the legislation is to make it possible to ensure the practice and works of some religions are “more (or less) equal”
- d) Religion must not be a political football and subject to value judgements by biased politicians or their administrators
- e) Similarly, selective loss rights of one or more religious minorities has happened in many other countries (including Germany, late as the 1990’s) generally after high profile propaganda campaigns against selected groups, designed to foster denial of basic rights
- f) As the Greens (and many of their allies) have a broad anti religious agenda, the legislation is a “thin edge of the wedge” which is ultimately dangerous to ALL religions, and to democracy itself
- g) Apostates should be free to leave a religion, then to join a new one or none but not to suppress the basic rights of any church they leave or its continued or new adherents (any more than being granted a divorce means the petitioner should be allowed to deprive their last spouse of basic rights to pursue a new life thereafter)
- h) In comparison, as a citizen, I have very limited capacity to leave my government. This is all the more reason for governments to be beyond reproach in legislation affecting basic human rights.

Linda Vij 18 June 2020