



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
of VICTORIA & WAGGA WAGGA
INC.



A Member Organisation of CWLA Inc.

Social Questions Committee

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600

SUBMISSION
on the
SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AN INTERSEX) Bill
2013.

Preamble: Having read (on line) the Submission presented by Family Voice Australia, we fully concur with the contents of its submission.

The Social Questions Committee speaks on these issues on behalf of our membership and therefore we bring to the committee's attention the following:

1. We note that the Explanatory Memorandum quotes a number of UN Conventions to support this Bill yet fails to include the Rome Statutes of the International Criminal Court which states in Article 7:3 that: For the purpose of this Statute, it is understood that the term "gender" refers to two sexes, male and female, within the context of society. The term "gender" does not indicate any meaning different from the above.
2. Today many different interpretations of these Conventions are being used to change laws which do not benefit the whole of society.
3. No UN Convention mentions the words 'sexual orientation or intersex' while the ICC gives a very clear statement on what 'gender identity' means.
4. As intersex is not widely talked about and is quite different to 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' we wonder if discrimination actually effects these people or is it being used to make the other two acceptable as we would all feel very sad for anyone who was born 'intersex'.
5. As stated, the Federal Government changed a huge number of laws in 2008 to make superannuation, insurance etc a right for all regardless. In doing so it replaced the term 'spouse' with the word 'partner' which many objected to. This Bill is once again discriminating against married couples (male and female) by changing the words in the current Bill from 'marital status' to 'marital or relationship status' to provide protection from discrimination for same-sex de facto couples. This Amendment Bill now put us all on a level playing field which is unacceptable as marriage is quite different to same-sex de facto couples. **Therefore we totally reject this amendment.**

6. Discrimination in employment: LGBTI people hold many high profile positions within governments, the ABC and private enterprise including the media, TV, sports, music industry, the Arts, modelling, Local Councils, advertising, Police Force and the Defence Force. Here in Victoria the township of Daylesford where most of the shops and restaurants are owned and run by the gay community. **Therefore we disagree with this amendment.**
7. We have witnessed in Victoria and NSW and in the reports from the UK, USA, Canada (and shortly NZ) how those who hold a different viewpoint from that of the LGBTI community are condemned, taken to court and fined. Some are even set to jail. Many have lost their jobs. The religious beliefs they hold are in conflict with the homosexual act and so they choose to say NO when asked to provide services to homosexual groups. Our question is – will the rights of the LGBTI community over ride the religious rights of people. Religion is not only about worship, it provides many services to the community. The Catholic Church provides more services to HIV/AIDS patients than any other organisation. **A person's Rights over rules choice of lifestyle.**
8. One of our major concerns if this Bill is passed is the effect on sex education within the school system. We note that in America parents are forbidden to take their children out of these classes which teach very young children about the homosexual lifestyle under the guise of preventing bullying.
9. The other concern is although stated otherwise in this Bill, we see it as another attempt to ease in same-sex marriage. The results on the Channel 7 web site last weekend which asked the question - should Australia follow NZ on SSM. 75% (47,759) stated NO while 25% (16,135) stated Yes.

Therefore, we recommend that this Bill suffer the same fate as the Bill put forward by the previous Attorney-General and be withdrawn.

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