

> > Submission to the Senate Committee examining the Exposure Draft of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012

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> > The Perth Sisters and Brothers of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence are a

> > International HGLBTIQ Organisation which is dedicated to supporting the

> > rights of GLBTIQ People.

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> > Along with all of our fabulous activities and rituals such as marriages,

> > blessings of public events and naming ceremonies the Perth Order of

> > Perpetual Indulgence are actively engaged in Health Promotion through a

> > Condom Ministry within both the Gay and Str8 Communities.

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> > This involves distributing free condoms to the Members of the Gathered

> > Faithful, on behalf of the WA AIDS Council, at a range of major public and

> > private events. The Perth Sisters believe that providing safe sex

> > information and education to heterosexuals serves to decrease Stigma and

> > Discrimination directed at Gay and Lesbian People Living with HIV/AIDS.

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> > We believe the basic approach which has been proven to work in the past

> > such as ubiquitous posters and Pamphlets is also a strategy that does help

> > reduce Discrimination and Vilification and needs to be revisited by

> > Government Funded NGO in the AIDS Industry. Their self admitted lack of

> > leadership begs the question: Are AIDS Councils still the best model or

> > would prevention be best done by qualified professionals in advertising

> > and communication agencies?

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> > The Order's submission is that we believe that anti-discrimination

> > legislation should include reference to HIV stigma to protect the rights

> > of all HIV+ People and to ensure they are safe living in our societies.

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> > We are not experts but we believe that the legislation should address Hate

> > Crimes such as Threats of legal intimidation towards HIV POZ People and

> > Verbals used to discriminate socially. Legislation should include

> > protection for social Media & Chat rooms and in the Work Places to prevent

> > suicide and violent hate crimes against HIV+ people.

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> > The Vilification though Social media is a major concern. Chat rooms are

> > being used to shame and out HIV People. The use of the word unclean is

> > used to describe Positive people, referring to Positive people as being

> > unclean and dirty. This verbal vilification has now become a standardised

> > part of the social scene in Perth WA and needs addressing. Positive people

> > are once again not going out to Venues as a result and been forced to

> > become socially isolated as a result leading to more mental health issues.

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> > There has been nothing done from a mainstream approach and the forms of

> > campaigns to address this need to be looked at. While there

> > is Vilification Law in respect to Race it should also apply to people with

> > Health disability such a chronic Illness as AIDS and other BBV & STDs.

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> > The Order would like to inform the Senate that there is an Organisation

> > funded by Government to represent HIV positive people on matters such this  
> > in Australia. We have written to NAPWHA and the WA AIDS Council and  
> > advised them of the submission process and asked them to make a  
> > submission on Behalf of HIV/POZ People. We are only a Volunteer  
> > Organisation and do not have the same funded resources that these  
> > Organisations have to provide Campaigns to address Vilification and  
> > discrimination.  
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> > Kind regards  
> > The Perth Sisters and Brothers of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence