

Dear Senators,

I encourage the committee to recommend that there should be no extension or consolidation of discrimination laws at the Federal level, and therefore this Bill should be rejected.

It is claimed that 'The Bill does not propose significant changes to existing laws or protections but is intended to simplify and clarify the existing anti-discrimination legislative framework' but this is not true. What might seem like small changes will have large repercussions on Australian society.

Evidence for this comes from when similar legislation to consolidate anti-discrimination laws in the UK, called the 'Equality Act', resulted in terrible damage to individuals and businesses. And strangely enough, or perhaps not so strangely, all the victims of this legislation seem to be Christians.

Firstly, every single Catholic Adoption agency in Britain has now been forced to close because they would not consent to harming children in their care by giving them to people openly involved in sinful homosexual relationships (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/7952526/Last-Catholic-adoption-agency-faces-closure-after-Charity-Commission-ruling.html>), and the same thing is now happening in the US (<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/illinois-catholic-charities-forced-out-of-adoptions-over-homosexual-rights>). Secondly, several Christian owners of Bed and Breakfast establishments have been prosecuted and fined for refusing to accommodate homosexual acts under their roof (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9617792/Gay-couple-turned-away-from-BandB-win-discrimination-case.html>), (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8283651/Second-BandB-owner-sued-for-turning-gay-couple-away.html>). And thirdly, there have also been several cases of Christian relationship counsellors and marriage celebrants who were sacked for simply requesting not to compromise their beliefs at their place of work (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9203953/Britains-Christians-are-being-vilified-warns-Lord-Carey.html>).

I have no doubt that this same type of persecution will come to Christian individuals and businesses in Australia if this legislation with its protection of 'sexual orientation' is made law. Please recommend the rejection of this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Joel David van der Horst