



Federal Electorate: Solomon
Northern Territory Electorate: Karama

2 December 2017

Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
GPO Box 1722
DARWIN NT 0801
<http://www.nt.gov.au/justice>

Dear People

Here are my thoughts on the matters raised in the Discussion Paper, Modernisation of the *Anti-Discrimination Act* September 2017.

Question 1

Is updating the term sexuality to sexual orientation without labels appropriate? Are there any alternative suggestions?

- **Sexuality should include labels for clarity, such as “heterosexual”, “homosexual” and “bisexual” to indicate the gender(s) of people a person feels sexually attracted to.**
- **Labels intended to vilify should be excluded.**

Question 2

Should the attribute of “gender identity” be included in the Act?

- **No.**
- **Gender is determined at the moment of conception, a person is either male or female depending on their sex chromosomes or rarely intersex.**
- **Allowing people to identify as the opposite sex is dangerous, it could mean that a man who identifies as “female” is able to use facilities provided for females such as shower rooms.**
- **Given the above “transgenderism” should not be recognised.**

Question 3

Should intersex status be included as an attribute under the Act?

- **Yes.**
- **Intersex status should be defined medically and only be available to the few people who are diagnosed as such by a properly qualified medical doctor. It should only allow a person access to appropriate medical treatment.**
- **In the few cases when a child is born with both male and female genitals they may be tested genetically to find what sex chromosomes they have and found to be either male or female.**

Question 4

Should vilification provisions be included in the Act? Should vilification be prohibited for attributes other than on the basis of race, such as disability, sexual orientation, religious belief, gender identity or intersex status?

- **No.**
- **Laws like this have been abused in other parts of Australia.**
- **In the case of the "2 Dannys". Activists attended a religious gathering, about sharing the love of Jesus Christ with Muslims, and claimed to be offended causing people great expense over a long period of time, when no vilification actually occurred.**
- **When the Catholic Church published their teachings on the subject of marriage and activist claimed to be offended by it and complained, only withdrawing the complaint after a public backlash.**
- **People should be able to publicly state the truth (or what they believe to be true) without fear. As mentioned above some may be offended by the truth, but that is no reason to stop is being told in public.**
- **There may be another way to prohibit vilification, but it would need to be well defined in order to only include statements clearly intended to incite hatred and/or incite acts of violence. Vilification would need to clearly exclude people being offended, embarrassed or any similar emotional response. Vilification would also need to exclude statements about natural consequences (including the responses of other people) of people's actions/lifestyles.**

Question 5

Should the Act create rights for people experiencing domestic violence in relation to public areas of life such as employment, education and accommodation?

- **Perhaps, employers, educators and accommodation providers should be able to choose reliable people.**
- **However, when practicable all should help people suffering domestic violence.**

Question 6

Should the Act protect people against discrimination on the basis of their accommodation status?

- **Perhaps.**
- **Accommodation status may be an indicator of the person's character, or mental health.**
- **Accommodation status may be an indicator of the person's reliability in carrying out duties and/or meeting responsibilities.**

Question 7

Should "lawful sex work" be included as an attribute under the Act?

- **No.**
- **This is an indicator of the character of the person. If they are willing to do this it indicates the sort of person they are.**

Question 8

Should "socioeconomic status" be included as a protected attribute?

Yes.

Question 9

Should the Act be broadened to include specifically trained assistance animals such as therapeutic and psychiatric seizure alert animals?

Yes.

Question 10

Should a representative complaint model process be introduced into the Act? Should there be any variations to the process of the complaint model as described above?

Yes.

Question 11

Should the requirement for clubs to hold a liquor licence be removed?

Yes.

Question 12

Should the restriction of areas of activity on sexual harassment be removed?

- **Yes.**
- **However many women invite sexual harassment by dressing in skimpy clothes (low neck lines, high hem lines, open backs, slits and other gaps).**

Question 13

Should the definition of "service" be amended to extend coverage to include the workers?

- **Yes.**
- **Some employers would not defend their workers from unfair treatment unless required to do so by law.**

Question 14

Should any exemptions for religious or cultural bodies be removed?

- **No.**
- **Religious organisations need to be able to act in accordance with their beliefs, including but not limited to who they employ and to whom they offer services.**
- **To require religious organisations need to be able to act in accordance with their beliefs, including but not limited to who they employ and to whom they offer services, would impose an unnecessary financial and administrative burden.**

Question 15

Should the exclusion of assisted reproductive treatment from services be removed?

- **No.**
- **The providers of assisted reproductive treatment should retain the right to assess the suitability of prospective parents, including whether the child(ren) would have a reasonable prospect of being raised by both of their biological parents.**
- **To allow a child to be conceived using the reproductive cells of a person or people who are known to be deceased violates the child's right to have a reasonable prospect of being raised by their biological parents.**
- **To allow single and homosexual people access to assisted reproductive treatment violates the child's right to have a reasonable prospect of being raised by their biological parents.**

Question 16

What are your views on expanding the definition of "work"?

- **Yes.**
- **The definition of work should include contractors and volunteers.**
- **Including contracting and volunteering in the definition of work should not be allowed to become a weapon against the people involved, especially volunteers.**

Question 17

Should section 24 be amended to clarify that it imposes a positive obligation?

Yes, if it is unclear it should be clarified.

Question 18

Is the name "Equal Opportunity Commissioner" preferred to the name "Anti-Discrimination Commissioner"? Would the benefits of a new name outweigh the financial cost that comes with re-naming an office?

No, the name should not change, there would be no benefits, there would be costs. It is not broken, do not fix it.

Question 20

Should definitions of "man" and "woman" be repealed?

- **No.**
- **To remove definitions of "man" and "woman" could open an opportunity for lawyers (and activists) to argue over the matter and distort the truth.**
- **A medical definition of "intersex" could be added, for the benefit of the few who fit this category.**

Question 21

Should the term "parenthood" be replaced with "carer responsibilities"?

- **Parenthood should refer to parent(s) and parenting responsibilities.**
- **Carer responsibilities should refer to other situations where a person cares for another.**
- **An inclusive term could be "parent or carer".**

Question 22

Should the term "marital status" be replaced with "relationship status"?

- **No.**
- **"Marital status" clearly refers to marriage and similar relationships, "relationship status" could refer to anything.**

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on these matters. Please consider them carefully. May God, the father of my Lord Jesus Christ, give you wisdom so that your final decisions will enable us all to live peacefully.

Sincerely,

