

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NT ANT-DISCRIMINATION ACT

Yes. Every Territorian should be able to live in a safe environment without fear of bullying and abuse. To have laws in place to assist in this is commendable. I appreciate being given the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

I have deep concerns about a number of aspects of the proposed changes though.

- There are over tones of social engineering under the guise of equality.
- There will not be equality or fairness for all.
- The Act will be used to suppress certain types of people and groups.
- The proposed changes in the Act can incite the very thing they are supposedly trying to prevent.
- Instead of celebrating diversity we will all need to conform, we will be acting as robots for fear of getting punished for expressing an opinion that differs from those espoused in the Act.

The act must not be used to target certain groups. Equal for all - racism is racism whether black to white or white to black. Discrimination is discrimination whether male to female or female to male. Discrimination cuts both ways and for the Act to be taken seriously it can not discriminate against any section of the community over another.

Terms "offend" and "insult" should be removed. These are 'airy fairy' and will stop free speech and respectful discussion. I am offended that people refer to my husband as my partner and not as my husband. I was offended when my children were racially abused by indigenous students while at school. I am offended when an indigenous women called my daughter a f...n white c..t for not driving 20kms out of her way to take the woman back to her community. Shall I take a case to the anti-Discrimination court? No. Have I racially abused another person. No. Have I abused someone for being homosexual. No.

For the record my family and I lived and worked on aboriginal communities for more than 11 years. We have close ties still. I am not racist. I am not homophobic and enjoy friendships with those who are homosexual.

Questions 1, 2 & 3

No. There is male and female and a small percentage of genetic / medical variations. The gender identity push has gone beyond a joke with an increasing number of genders being "identified" as time goes on. Adding to the complexity are those who choose to be change their gender on a regular basis. Gender in modern times is a mental / emotional state. Physically, when forensics do autopsies on unidentified bodies they can only say a person is male or female.

As for sexual orientation, where does it stop? Similar arguments for SSM can be used for all the other variations of sexual orientation. Why do we agree with SSM and say pedophilia is wrong, incest is wrong, polygamy is wrong and any of the other variations are wrong.

It will be a "minefield" trying to keep from offending someone. We will be using generic terms for fear of unwittingly using the wrong pronoun. We will all be clones of each other.

Question 4

See comments above.

Question 5 & 6

Care must be taken with these issues.

It is commendable to want to assist those in domestic violence situations. It must be noted that men are the victims of domestic violence as well as women. Men must be protected as well as women. Men are often in a more difficult situation as they are not taken seriously and don't have the 'tools' available to them that women have. Domestic violence also includes elder abuse as well as child abuse.

My concerns with this question is the word “reasonably” in regard to employer obligation. Employers are not social workers. With a high rate of business failures, it is not right to expect employers to bear the responsibility of protecting domestic abuse victims if their safety and business comes under risk in doing so.

Care needs to be taken in making it punishable for ordinary citizens to not rent or provide a home to domestic violence victims if other people (close neighbours) and property will be put at risk. Businesses will stop employing and homeowners will stop renting out accommodation if they can be punished for protecting their families, livelihood and property.

Question 7

Comments above also apply to “lawful sex workers”. Other people and property must not be put at risk.

Question 8

Socioeconomic factors should not be a factor. People’s behaviour is. Unfortunately, in some cases the behaviour often leads to poor choices and people end up in an poor socioeconomic situation. Again, business owners and landlords are not social workers.

Question 9

Yes. All “service” dogs should all be treated the same a guide dogs. They provide a valuable service.

Question 10

No. A representative complaint model should not be introduced, especially when they do not have to get the consent of each individual person supposedly victimised. A representative complaint model will be open to abuse and misunderstanding. It can be used by self interest groups to push their agenda.

Question 12

The phrase “sexual harassment” is open to abuse. Simply touching a person’s arm can end in a sexual harassment claim. I would say the better question is the definition and not the ‘areas of activity’.

Question 13

Yes

Question 14

No.

To remove the exemptions would open up churches, schools, businesses etc to vilification, attack and abuse. It has already been well documented that Christians and Christian businesses have been deliberately targeted to get them shut down. For example, a baker’s business is destroyed and huge financial penalties applied when they said no to baking a cake for SSM weddings.

Christian schools have certain beliefs and expected behaviours. Take away the exemption that allows them to employ people with similar beliefs and behaviours negates the need for Christian Schools. How will the NT Government cope when private schools shut their doors? The thousands of students left school-less will have to be accommodated in the public school system.

Contrary to what some sections of the community try to portray, Christian churches play an important role in the community. They are there for the vulnerable in our community, they teach values that were once held in high esteem by the community such a few short years ago, they do charitable works, minister to the elderly and the forgotten. Take Christians and Christian churches out of the community and a shining light will be extinguished. Anything will be acceptable, the vulnerable will be forgotten.

Question 16

Paid workers and volunteers should be treated equally.

Question 17

No. This places an unnecessary burden on the majority to cater to for an increasing list of special needs minorities. I feel for people with genuine special needs. I rejoice when they succeed in life. What I don't agree with is cases such as where clapping is banned because someone complained it hurt their ears.

Question 18

No.

Question 19

No

Question 20

No. We are biologically a man or a woman. Redefining the meaning will allow men, claiming to be / identifying as transgender, to enter women's rest rooms, go on women's sport teams, sleep in girl guides tents and shower with young girls as is happening in the UK. The same applies for women identifying a men being in men's toilets, sport teams, etc.

Question 21

No

Our society has been turned on its head in a very short time, and not in a nice way. These proposed changes to anti-vilification laws will create the very thing they are supposed to prevent. People will be bullied. People will lose their livelihoods. People will be driven to despair.

Those with an axe to grind WILL use these laws to shut down institutions like churches and destroy the lives of people who do not agree with the new ideologies like transgenderism, SSM, Safe schools, etc.

We already see venues like conference halls, restaurants and hotels being threatened because they have rented a room out to "say no" to SSM groups for meetings. We will see churches, florists and bakeries being punished for not agreeing to perform a SSM wedding, bake a SSM wedding cake and provide flowers for SSM weddings.

To be taken seriously, NT Anti-Discrimination laws must be for ALL Territorians and not used as a tool for social engineering and shutting down of fair and open debate.

Regards

