

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 January 2018 9:13 AM
To: Policy AGD
Subject: re: proposed changes to Anti Discrimination act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Religious or cultural bodies currently have exemptions under the Act for certain attributes and areas if in line with the religious doctrines necessary to avoid offending the cultural or religious sensitivities of people of that particular culture or religion. The exemptions apply automatically for religious organisations and do not require any justification by the religious organisation as to why the exemption should apply. To promote equality of opportunity for all Territorians, the removal of some of these exemptions is being considered.

Religious or cultural bodies have not only doctrines but usually centuries old documents or stories/dances passed down which give them their identity. Acknowledgement and recognition of such is fundamental to the religious freedom afforded in this country. This act would crumble that very foundation.

It does seem to me that certain small groups in our society today are seeking to discriminate against not only the beliefs of various religions and cultures but also against those who chose or are a part of such. Pushing through the proposed changes in this act would be a part of such discrimination. How is that equality?

There must be boundaries.

A golf footy club surely can/should reserve the right to have boundaries that allows or disallows people of their particular sport or code being a part of their organisation or using their facilities. Their fields and facilities are purposely built for use for their particular sport. Religious facilities are built for their specific purposes and others should not be able to dictate or change the use thereof. Not every facility can nor should be available for use by anyone and everyone. Otherwise, I'd expect to be able to walk into parliament house or your office and use them for my own purposes.

While this may not be as clear in the reading as I would like to express, I do want to take the opportunity to raise my voice and say that I feel that the changes being proposed are directed at religious groups which is discriminatory.

While some of us who are Christian or Catholic or many others I could name may not live up to the expectations of the public or even of the God whom we love and serve, that should not give room for the removal of those faiths and religions and the beliefs and teachings found in their ancient writings. History shows that numbers who claim and participate in worship and belonging to various religious groups (Christain, Catholics, etc) has ebbed and flowed throughout history. Currently there is a very high percentage of Aboriginal people who identify as Christian and the enrollments for the Bible training facility in Darwin (Nungalinga) is a testament to that.

Should we remove the definition of male and female?

NO. There are physical differences and there should be no shame or reason to change the defining of such. Because of choices, another term could be added, but please do not take these definitions away. It would be political "correctness" gone absolutely stupidly birserk.

Thank you for your time and attention to these thoughts, and for giving us the opportunity to express our concerns and views.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]