

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania and residents of Tasmania draws to the attention of the House: that,

Australia is a culturally diverse country. We want to live in a country where people respect one another despite their differences - where people are free to speak their mind while respecting the freedoms and rights of others.

Australian people currently have the right to express their ideas so long as they don't say something that offends, insults, humiliates or intimidates another person or a group on the basis of their race or ethnicity. This is a fair law for everyone and it been a law that has worked to protect people from hate speech for over twenty years.

We are concerned that the proposed amendments to racial vilification provisions in the Racial Discrimination Act will see forms of cyber racism and racial abuse that are presently unlawful, become lawful activities.

We therefore ask the House to ensure that we retain strong legal protection from hate speech and that you to reject the proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act.