

SUBMISSION to Senate **Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee**
on a Draft Anti-Discrimination Bill

I would like to register my disapproval of the recommended changes to the Anti-Discrimination Bill as proposed by Minister Nicola Roxon.

I particularly am uncomfortable with the new inclusions of prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Where I see this as a problem is in the cases of religious institutions, Commonwealth-funded church-run aged care and schools who exist because in this country we have freedom enshrined into our constitution the capacity of each citizen to believe according to one's conscience. Even though some of these areas are proposed as exceptions, examples abound overseas where organisations/single citizens have taken exception to employment rules established at one of these institutions for good reasons. Consequently, religious organisations and schools have been fined etc if they do not immediately comply to employment of those they do not in conscience feel are suitable for their organisation. Therefore we will lose our freedoms in this country which have been so carefully given to us by very wise people many years ago.

I ask that there be no further erosion of the rights of our citizens in the ways proposed.

Yours sincerely
Nola Drum