

Dear Sir/Madam

I am concerned about any changes to our freedom of speech and religion that take away or hinder these freedoms we enjoy and the impact this bill would have on our lives.

These following points of the bill are of great concern;

- a) Drastically expands the number of attributes that will be protected to include things like gender identity and sexual orientation;
- b) Defines discrimination to include behaviour that “offends or insults”, increasing the likelihood of vexatious claims;
- c) Fails to outline the importance of balancing the right to non-discrimination with other human rights including religious freedom and freedom of association;
- d) Moves the onus of proving there was no unlawful discrimination to the respondent if a complainant establishes prima facie a case, leading to concerns of nuisance claims; and,
- e) Requires the protections for religious freedom, known as ‘exceptions’, which apply to religious bodies and educational institutions, to be reviewed every three years.

Please protect our freedom of speech and religion by not recommending this bill.