

## SUBMISSION TO SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

We submit the following comments and views of this Association regarding the proposals released by Nicola Roxon in her "exposure draft" of the new Federal Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

We find the content of the draft proposals in which changes to the Freedom of Speech will be affected, will in fact and in effect be an ideological attempt to override the guarantee by the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights and Australian Law. This will result in changes detrimental to the spirit and moral wellbeing and protection of all Australians, which our founding fathers intended and as expressed in the Australian Constitution.

### ONUS OF PROOF

According to advice to us from competent legal sources, the Attorney General's intent to reverse the onus of proof is not a "streamlined complaints process" - it is turning the law on its head and setting aside the 800 year old common law of presumption of innocence. It represents a fundamental change to the culture of justice in Australia. The advice given to us states that any proposed bill must retain the onus of proof on the complainant.

### FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

This section concerns us in particular if it were used against our Association's aims and objects of promoting freely respect for all human life from conception to natural death in our Australian community programmes. Also it suggests some interference or government control of free speech in our provision of factual information in our Education, Pregnancy Lifeline and Family Assistance programmes which would undermine our right to provide these services. We see this as an attempt to impose an ideological control of freedom of community values and association.