

Exposure Draft of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012. – Submission

In its current form this bill:

- >Potentially criminalizes behaviour that is simply alleged to have caused mere offence– Humiliation and victimization are very different to simply being offended– with such loose wording the potential for thousands of vexatious complaints is opened up.
- >Puts the onus on the accused to have to prove their innocence, rather than approaching the issue from the accepted norm of “innocent until proven guilty”.
- >Shows no sense of balance between the need for protection from discrimination, and the right to freedom of expression and free speech.
- >Does away with objectivity by removing words such as “reasonably” in relation to offence– making it a subjective test of being offended.
- >Has real potential to impinge and degrade our freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of association.