

# To the Senate Inquiry in Religious Freedoms.

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I am deeply concerned and most unimpressed by the supposed minimal changes to the current Discrimination legislation. Ironically I see the proposed changes as achieving the very opposite to the intent of the Discrimination Law. The result will be greater religious discrimination against Christians in particular and other religions which have very strong religious beliefs about what is appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviour and relationships.

To widen the legislation to allow offence and insult is to open the doors to nuisance claims and will plug up the system with imagined or manufactured claims. I am offended every day by insults and offence directed at Christians. I am offended by the widespread use of my Saviour's name *Jesus Christ* as a swear word or using *oh my god!* as an exclamation. But I have learnt to live with that offense. To legislate to include offense and insult is just plain ridiculous because you only have that person's feelings to go by and how can you possibly prove that you have not offended me? It is ridiculous legislation. This is an attempt to discriminate against anyone who thinks differently to you. Where is freedom of speech in that equation? To enact this kind of legislation is to empower the terrorist tactics of fundamentalist who manipulate legislation to paralyse people from having the freedom to think differently to their narrow view of life. Healthy and respectful dialogue should be an active and free part of a democratic society. Sometimes during that dialogue I can feel hurt or offended by people thinking differently to me but part of being a mature adult is to deal with that and allow others the right to a different opinion rather than chucking a tantrum and forbidding anyone to express any contrary opinion. The current discrimination laws are totally sufficient for our Country. We do not need a Bill of Rights which will only deteriorate the great freedoms that we revel in in this country. Why do we bend over backwards to "protect" the rights of minority groups who are rigidly unbending themselves and who through their very complaints discriminate against the beliefs of others. Make no changes in this legislation. It works and gives everyone a fair go now. That would change if

current changes are brought into being. Thank you for listening to me on this matter.

*Chris Ganter.*