

Submission on the Human Rights and Anti-discrimination Bill 2012

To widen the grounds for claims of discrimination will provide those with a restrictive agenda the opportunity to limit freedom of speech, religious freedom and normal public comment on a wide range of issues.

Julia Gillard will not be able to call Tony Abbott a misogynist; blonde jokes; Kiwi jokes; the Pom, the Scot and the Irishman in a pub jokes; Bob Katter hat jokes; the list goes on and on, and is endless, will be off limits.

There would also be a serious limitation on all public debate; could I call a politician a scumbag? How would we discuss Slipper, Craig Thomson, the HSU et al?

And Storelli and MLC?

In addition, to put the burden of proof on the defendant is a complete reversal of the principles of law that have served us well for centuries. This feature would cause vexatious claims to proliferate, overload the Courts and be a waste of public money urgently needed for more beneficial proposals.

I ask that this vexatious Bill be thrown out by Parliament.