



20 October 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry of the Sex and Age Discrimination
Legislation Amendment Bill 2010**

On behalf of the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG), I would like to congratulate the Parliament on the introduction of the Sex and Age Discrimination Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. The establishment of an Age Discrimination Commissioner would be warmly received by the AAG, and would assist in supporting the objects of the *Age Discrimination Act 2004*, which includes ensuring that everyone has the same rights to equality before the law regardless of age, and removing barriers to older people participating in society and changing negative stereotypes about older people.

The amendments to the *Age Discrimination Act 2004*, the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986*, and the *Fair Work Act 2009* are warranted and timely given Australia's ageing population and Australia's ageing workforce, and are hereby supported by the AAG.

The AAG, however, would like to propose one change to the Bill. Under Section 53 A (2) of the Bill, it states: "A person may only be appointed as the Age Discrimination Commissioner if the Minister is satisfied that the person has appropriate qualifications, knowledge or experience". The Explanatory Memorandum clarifies this point stating that the current Minister responsible for the *Age Discrimination Act 2004* is the Attorney-General. The AAG recommends that the Bill also stipulate that the Minister responsible for the Ageing portfolio also be consulted on the appropriateness of the appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary inquiry into the Sex and Age Discrimination Legislation Amendment Bill, and I look forward to the final outcome and subsequent appointment of an Age Discrimination Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Gill Lewin
President
Australian Association of Gerontology

expanding knowledge of ageing