

Australian Family Association

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The Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Legal & Constitutional Affairs,
legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

SEX & AGE DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2010

Thank you for your letter dated 8 October 2010 regarding our Association's comments on the above bill.

SEX DISCRIMINATION

We support the provisions of the bill particularly the broadening of the provisions with regard to family responsibility.

Both men and women need to be protected in areas of their employment in caring for their children and relatives.

Breastfeeding of infants as a separate ground for discrimination clearly applies to women and particularly in public places.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is unacceptable and in the past has led to suicides and physical and mental illnesses.

The law should be brought up to date with the latest technology in both workplaces and educational institutions.

However, sexual harassment is now being experienced with internet, facebook and social networking sites that are used to recruit our young for sexual purposes, that is why we support internet filters for protection of vulnerable young people.

AGE DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER

The provision of a separate age discrimination commissioner is a good provision given that Australia's population is aging.

Our Association is aware that elder abuse is becoming an increasing problem and that discrimination issues based on age is likely to increase.

We anticipate that this involves a reallocation of duties of current commissioners to enable a focus on specific issues.

We understand that there are no proposed amendments to this current bill.

Yours Sincerely,

David Perrin
National President