

13 December 2012

To the Senate Committee,

I strongly oppose Nicola Roxon's proposed Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012. This is truly political correctness gone mad. Respect for anyone's views cannot be legislated. Indeed not all views are equal, regardless of what people say. If someone believes lying is ok or that child porn is ok, merely criticizing someone with such views will be impossible. 50 years ago, criticizing homosexuality would not only have been tolerated, it would have been seen as good for the community. With our downward spiral of morality, such legislation will only accelerate unacceptable fringe ideas becoming main-stream in a generation, regardless of their merit. Truth is not subject to negotiation. Ideas however must be allowed to be aired so that true debate and the merits of such ideas discussed and weighed up. Age-discrimination protects minors for their own well-being. Discrimination ultimately is impossible to eradicate. Every day, red lights discriminate between who can and who cannot drive. Police offend motorists who enforce this. Discrimination brings order amongst chaos both on the road and in the realm of ideas. It is foolish for the government to be even considering such legislation when there are far more important things to worry about in this country. Free speech must be preserved. More importantly, the values and principles on which this country and its law were founded, namely **Christian principles**, need to be protected lest we become a nation like the nations from which our very boat people flee. Tolerance is not recognizing that all ideas are equal, it is merely allowing those ideas to be aired for the scrutiny of all. If they are found to be at conflict with our core foundational values, they should be discarded, not allowed further propagation or protection. Both religious freedom and free speech are human rights. By legislating this you effectively just silence one group for the sake of another, and we know, through recent history who it is that will be silenced, the ones who hold the Christian values which are at odds with the minority groups who wish to push their agendas on the rest of us. Let freedom of speech and religion remain truly free.

Joseph Stephen