

Dear Senators,

I write in response to the proposed Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012 which I oppose as it is a way of silencing freedom of speech. I thought as our representatives, you are there to uphold the constitution and protect free speech. I would like to quote from James Spigelman Chairman of ABC and former chief justice of NSW. "The new bill proposes a significant redrawing of the line between permissible and unlawful speech. A freedom that is contingent on proving, after the event, that it was exercised reasonably or on some other exculpatory basis is a much reduced freedom.

Further, as is well known, the chilling effect of the mere possibility of legal processes will prevent speech that could have satisfied an exception.

When rights conflict, drawing the line too far in favour of one degrades the other right. Words such as "offend" and "insult" impinge on freedom in a way that words such as "humiliate", "denigrate", "intimidate", "incite Hostility" or "hatred" or "contempt", do not. To go beyond language of the latter character, in my opinion, goes too far."

If Mr James Spigelman thinks this Bill goes too far then we as a layman call on you as our representatives to oppose this Bill on our behalf. As far as we are concerned this Bill undermines free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association and natural justice. it should be rejected or amended.

Yours sincerely,

Rick & Lynn Bristow