

TO: **Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee**, Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600.

FROM: Allan Wilson

I am disgusted at the intention to discriminate against the rights of people who wish to give a personal opinion by making them guilty of an offence of possibly causing insult to those who hear but do not agree with that opinion.

Every day, in the media or in the course of our everyday business, we all hear or read of opinions with which we do not agree. I feel personally insulted by many of these opinions, but I would never consider taking legal action against the perpetrator as I consider it to be their right to express an opinion. If this proposed Bill is approved we will have irresponsible people taking action against politicians, police, teachers, councillors, religious organizations, parents – in fact anybody in any position of authority. Every intelligent person has opinions but, if he thinks somebody might be insulted by these opinions and can take action against him, he will keep them to himself. This will stifle all discussion and negotiations and the country will eventually succumb to chaotic disobedience and grind to a standstill.

The so-called offended person has only to say that he feels that he has been insulted and the onus is then on the person who made the original statement to prove that he is innocent. **This is not democracy.** What happens if this person making the statement then says that he has been insulted by the listeners' intolerance? Can he then make a counter claim against that person?

Just forget this act of lunacy. This Bill would undermine free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association and natural justice. It is so bizarre that it cannot be amended. There is only one solution and that is: **"The Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012" should be totally rejected.**