

As citizens of the Australian Capital Territory we are submitting this letter in response to the inquiry about the lack of equality between States and Territories. We believe that people living in Territories should have the same rights as those who are living in States.

Territories are being discriminated against in Australia for no reason other than their name. This means that not all Australians are equal because of where they live, and the naming of that place. The idea being put forward means that no Australian citizen will be discriminated against due to where they choose to live.

Tasmania has roughly the same population as the Australian Capital Territory, and yet the people living there have more rights than the people of the Australian Capital Territory. This is not democratic, nor is it fair on anyone in Australia. There is no exact definition of the word 'democracy', although equality is recognised as one of the most important components of a democratic system of government working.

While some people do choose to live in a Territory, others have to move into a Territory for work, or other reasons, and so it is not their choice to live in a place where they get less say over the laws which they live by. To those who claim that Bob Brown is only putting this bill forward due to the fact that he has ulterior motives; is it really that relevant? Is it worth holding back Australia's claim to be a democratic country? Is it worth letting people be discriminated against, for petty reasons? Our view is that it is not.

People living in a Territory know better than politicians who live in a different State on what the issue is and how to best solve it. When a majority of that Territory agrees on a law it should be allowed to stay in place, rather than have others who are not directly involved decide whether or not it should stay a law.

Regards;

Ms Imogen Dadswell, Mr Joshua Beer and Mr William O'Neill