

> > Submission to the Senate Committee examining the Exposure Draft of Human
> > Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012
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> > The Perth Sisters and Brothers of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence are a
> > International HGLBTIQ Organisation which is dedicated to supporting the
> > rights of GLBTIQ People.
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> > Along with all of our fabulous activities and rituals such as marriages,
> > blessings of public events and naming ceremonies the Perth Order of
> > Perpetual Indulgence are actively engaged in Health Promotion through a
> > Condom Ministry within both the Gay and Str8 Communities.
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> > This involves distributing free condoms to the Members of the Gathered
> > Faithful, on behalf of the WA AIDS Council, at a range of major public and
> > private events. The Perth Sisters believe that providing safe sex
> > information and education to heterosexuals serves to decrease Stigma and
> > Discrimination directed at Gay and Lesbian People Living with HIV/AIDS.
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> > We believe the basic approach which has been proven to work in the past
> > such as ubiquitous posters and Pamphlets is also a strategy that does help
> > reduce Discrimination and Vilification and needs to be revisited by
> > Government Funded NGO in the AIDS Industry. Their self admitted lack of
> > leadership begs the question: Are AIDS Councils still the best model or
> > would prevention be best done by qualified professionals in advertising
> > and communication agencies?
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> > The Order's submission is that we believe that anti-discrimination
> > legislation should include reference to HIV stigma to protect the rights
> > of all HIV+ People and to ensure they are safe living in our societies.
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> > We are not experts but we believe that the legislation should address Hate
> > Crimes such as Threats of legal intimidation towards HIV POZ People and
> > Verbals used to discriminate socially. Legislation should include
> > protection for social Media & Chat rooms and in the Work Places to prevent
> > suicide and violent hate crimes against HIV+ people.
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> > The Vilification though Social media is a major concern. Chat rooms are
> > being used to shame and out HIV People. The use of the word unclean is
> > used to describe Positive people, referring to Positive people as being
> > unclean and dirty. This verbal vilification has now become a standardised
> > part of the social scene in Perth WA and needs addressing. Positive people
> > are once again not going out to Venues as a result and been forced to
> > become socially isolated as a result leading to more mental health issues.
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> > There has been nothing done from a mainstream approach and the forms of
> > campaigns to address this need to be looked at. While there
> > is Vilification Law in respect to Race it should also apply to people with
> > Health disability such a chronic Illness as AIDS and other BBV & STDs.
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> > The Order would like to inform the Senate that there is an Organisation

> > funded by Government to represent HIV positive people on matters such this
> > in Australia. We have written to NAPWHA and the WA AIDS Council and
> > advised them of the submission process and asked them to make a
> > submission on Behalf of HIV/POZ People. We are only a Volunteer
> > Organisation and do not have the same funded resources that these
> > Organisations have to provide Campaigns to address Vilification and
> > discrimination.
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> > Kind regards
> > The Perth Sisters and Brothers of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence