

**Submission
No 93**

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND
EQUALITY) BILL 2020**

Name: Brian Tideman

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To the Committee of inquiry into Religious Freedom:

In Australia, we have always enjoyed the ability to pursue our day to day activities with a minimum of interference or restriction by the state through the out working of our laws. We are all aware that as individuals, we personally have our own version of the way we see the world. We surely all want to be able to be free to think and do things in accordance with our view of culture, and to experience a minimum of restrictions in so doing. Traditionally this has been associated with phrases such as having 'a right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.'

As we all enjoy being in the company of others who usually have a similar way of thinking, this means that everyone should have the right to live out their religion or belief in a teaching and by participating in the practice of worship, or indeed NOT to do so. We also do not expect the state to interfere in such practice except where it is likely to seriously and directly affect others. (It should be noted that it is once's choice how we react to the practices of others)

However, in recent times, those having minority views seem to want to inflict their rights onto the rest of the community. This has unfortunately in my view, resulted in the need for anti-discrimination law.

I support the proposed amendments, especially in Part 2B whose sections 22M to Z which have been found necessary to spell out in some detail, the responsibilities of groups and organisations.

It is my hope that these amendments will provide sufficient protection from religious discrimination.

Then perhaps, once more, our democracy will be 'tolerant' of those who hold to a faith, or even to no faith at all.

I therefore support the aims and objectives of the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedom and Equality) Bill 2020, and

I hereby call on the parliament to pass the bill to ensure that religious freedom is protected.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Tideman

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