

**Submission
No 103**

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

Name: Lex Stewart

Date Received: 21 August 2020

[REDACTED]
21 August 2020

SUBMISSION to the Joint Select Committee on the
Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020
To ReligiousFreedomBill@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Committee

1 Introduction – I offer comments, based on my perspectives:

- a parent and grandparent concerned at the direction of our country, whether we can have principled, true democracy, or whether we slide into tyranny and chaos
- 27 years work in industry and 23 years in Government Departments (mainly NSW)
- Among my mainly Engineering/Management career, I have worked for six MPs (3 Canberra, 3 NSW) from four different Parties, including a Minister and a Senator.

2 COMMENTS

2.1 I have read the Bill (14 pages) and conclude that the objectives are valid, and that the terms of the Bill are appropriate for securing its objectives.

In particular, the Principles of the Act in Section 3 are to be commended.

2.2 I have read the 8 pages of Explanatory Notes, and am much helped by the 28 examples that illustrate how useful this new Bill will be in addressing a whole host of crazy situations that have been allowed to develop under existing legislation/bureaucracy and under Liberal Premiers and Attorney-Generals, who can be commended only on their cowardice.

2.3 I have read Mark Latham's speech of 13/5/2020, and describe it as masterful, cogent commonsense. As one who has been on the management committees of a medium-size Trade Union for 20 years, and who deplores the decay of the ALP in betraying workers since he left Parliament in 2005, I say that Mark is the best Labor Prime Minister we never had.

2.4 I suggest that the Committee in its deliberations not give much heed to the Commonwealth draft Religious Discrimination Bill 2019, which is in my view flawed and inadequate. NSW can lead the way here, and teach the Commonwealth a lesson.

2.5 This long overdue piece of legislation is necessary because the existing rights and legal protections contained in the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) are inadequate. I reach this conclusion after observing the way that the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board (ADB) and NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) have, inter alia, a lot of absurd alia, unreasonably processed complaints by Mr Gary Burns against Major Bernard Gaynor (a resident of Queensland!), Israel Folau and John Sunol. What a shocking waste of NSW taxpayers' money! It is reprehensible that the ADB and NCAT were complicit in such stupidities, and that NSW Premiers/Attorney-Generals have allowed all of this to go on.

3 Conclusion and Recommendation

- I recommend that this Bill should be passed in its entirety without amendments.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

Lex Stewart, (on the Electoral Roll as Alexander Cornell Stewart)