

**Submission  
No 131**

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

**Name:** Mr Michael Barnett

**Date Received:** 21 August 2020

Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020  
Parliament of New South Wales  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

By email to [ReligiousFreedomsBill@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ReligiousFreedomsBill@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

August 21 2020

**Submission to Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020**

Dear Committee,

I wish to make a brief submission, primarily in response to the August 20 2020 [submission by Rev David Ould](#).

In his submission Rev David Ould writes:

While there has always been a necessary (and even sometimes beneficial) difference between the religious and society in general, the past decade has seen a great increase in pressure and even discrimination against religious people. Others will have documented examples in detail to the Joint Committee and I will not tread heavily over already well-travelled ground. It is, however, helpful to give a number of examples to demonstrate a real need for a specific legislated protection.<sup>4</sup>

...

- A senior executive of PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) who was attacked by LGBT+ activists demanding his resignation from the board of the Australian Christian Lobby. Under the intense pressure PWC did not support him making his position at the company untenable.

<sup>4</sup> List compiled from cases catalogued at Australia Watch <https://australiawatch.com.au/>

The source for this example is <https://australiawatch.com.au/mark> where it actually states:

Mark Allaby is a senior executive of PWC who was targeted by LGBT+ activists in NSW. The activists lobbied PWC to force him to resign from the Board of the Australian Christian Lobby, an organisation that holds orthodox Christian views on marriage and gender. The activists objected to the idea that Mark should be able to hold a position on the ACL Board at the same time as working at PWC. PWC did not defend Mark against the attack. He felt that it was impossible for him to continue working at PWC with such visible and vitriolic attacks and stay on the ACL Board.

The reality of this situation is that in February 2016 I asked ACON's *Pride in Diversity* via Twitter to review PwC as a member of their workplace inclusion program due to an apparent conflict arising from Mark Allaby simultaneously being a Director of the hard-line anti-LGBTIQ+ Australian Christian Lobby that seeks to erode LGBTIQ+ rights and a senior executive of the pro-LGBTIQ+ *Pride in Diversity* member organisation PwC.

<https://twitter.com/mikeybear/status/701604433377951744>



**Michael Barnett** @mikeybear · Feb 22, 2016

.@PrideDiversity: @PwC\_AU snr exec Mark Allaby is a Director of anti-gay @aclobby. Massive conflict. Please review.



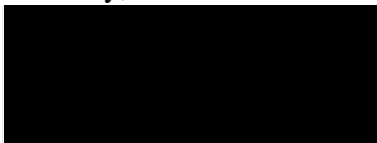
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Hard-line and fundamentalist religious conservatives and allied media outlets have variously distorted and misrepresented my actions, which were singularly directed at ACON's *Pride In Diversity* program, and never directed at Mark Allaby or the ACL.

Rev David Ould's submission has failed to accurately represent the reality of this situation. He has even misrepresented his own inaccurate source. His use of the Mark Allaby / PwC example as one of religious discrimination is preposterous given it boils down to being about a Victorian LGBTIQ+ equality activist (me) targeting a NSW LGBTIQ+ organisation's (ACON) LGBTIQ+ inclusion program (Pride in Diversity).

I submit that the credibility of Rev David Ould's examples of religious discrimination is seriously lacking and would ask you seek all the facts before basing any decisions upon them.

Sincerely,



Michael Barnett.

