

**Submission  
No 140**

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

**Name:** Irene Skinner

**Date Received:** 21 August 2020

Submission to Religious Freedoms Bill

Dear Sir/Ms,

I support the Religious Freedoms Bill, for the following reasons.

Australia's legal and political systems are based on Judeo-Christianity. The more we tear this down the more our society will deteriorate. We definitely need laws that protect us all, including people of faith.

Anti-discrimination laws should make discrimination on the grounds of a person's religious beliefs or activities unlawful, except in the case of a religious organisation, which should be able to hire and fire staff according to their central tenets and choose whether or not to provide services to any member of the public, based on attributes such as marital status, homosexuality and transgender status. Otherwise the organisations would have to act against their beliefs, which are based on the Bible's teaching. People who do not adhere to the organisations' religious principles may study or work or access services somewhere else. People of faith should be able to attend religious schools and other organisations, knowing that the staff adhere to their shared principles.

Freedom from religious discrimination goes hand in hand with freedom of speech. In a democratic society, religious organisations should be allowed to challenge government programs, just as anyone else should be allowed to.

People should be free to quote from the Bible, just as they can from any other publication, without it being labelled as hate speech. People should be free to express religious views, just as people of no faith are free to express dislike of religious views. In recent years, religious organisations have been prevented from publicly hiring venues and running events if they were discussing matters of faith, such as in the debate about "marriage equality". This type of discrimination should be illegal.

In a free and democratic society Christians should not be banished from the public square just because they say things which others disagree with. Religious beliefs and convictions have an important place in contributing to decisions about public policy.

Yours Sincerely,

Irene Skinner

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