

**Submission
No 54**

**INQUIRY INTO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT
(COMPLAINT HANDLING) BILL 2020**

Name: Mr Roderick McLeod

Date Received: 24 April 2020

Submission to:

Inquiry into the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Complaint Handling) Bill 2020

I ask that this Bill be approved as is and restored to the Notice Paper for consideration and debate.

Overview of Bill The object of this Bill is to make further provision with respect to the declining of certain complaints by the President of the Anti-Discrimination Board and to remove the requirement for the President to refer certain declined complaints to the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

According to the post of Mark Latham MLC to his Facebook account, the Bill will seek to do two main things:

*Empower/Make further provisions for the President of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board to decline certain complaints as frivolous or vexatious, misconceived or lacking in substance.

*Remove the requirement for the President to refer declined complaints to NCAT (NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal).

1. There is no right not to be offended. Life has a variety of social occurrences and expressions of views. The level of offence for statements with no criminal intent varies with the affected individual, but a minor level of what a person considers 'offence' should not be considered as not important enough as the basis of complaints to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board for legal action.

2. The referral of declined complaints to the Tribunal is an unnecessary action and is an open invitation to vexatious complaints and to using legal forms as a means to remove unwanted views from the public arena of debate.

The Anti-Discrimination Board should not be used as a weapon by activists. As Mark Latham said in his maiden speech in 2019: 'They preach diversity but practice a suffocating cultural conformity, wanting everyone to be just like them. They argue for inclusion but as soon as a Christian, a conservative, a libertarian, a nationalist, a working class larrikin, an outsider from the vast suburbs and regions of our nation disagrees with them, they crank up their PC-outrage machine to exclude them from society.'

I ask that this Bill sponsored by Mark Latham MLC be approved as a means to improve civil debate.