

**Submission
No 163**

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

Name: Mr Andrew Copp

Date Received: 26 April 2020

Dear Committee

I would like to support in full Mark Latham's *Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Complaint Handling) Bill 2020*.

I endorse the proposed changes at Schedule 1[4] including that the President of the Anti-Discrimination Board can decline certain complaints that are frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or lacking in substance, as well as where there is another more appropriate remedy to consider the complaint.

The current situation regarding how the Board operates makes me cautious of voicing my opinions. I often only make them known verbally amongst friends. Some of these opinions are long held traditional views that up until fairly recently have been held by the mainstream of public. I respect people who disagree, but do not want to be taken to court in what I believe would be for unnecessary reasons and experience the emotional, financial and damaging effects of such action. I may be one of those quiet Australians that are under the radar when it comes to our community wanting to know what people think through media surveys, government focus groups and official opinion polling. This is a shame. Actions by the Anti-Discrimination Board and the Civil Administrative Tribunal have contributed to a situation where certain ideas held in the conservative community are suppressed. People are worried of the consequences of speaking up so they don't. This is not good for a free society that already has sufficient laws on legitimate areas around the parameters of free speech.

I support Mr Latham's proposed changes.

Regards

Andrew Copp