

**Submission
No 185**

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

Name: Mr Remo Barbero

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SUBMISSION ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (COMPLAINTS HANDLING) BILL 2020

It is understood that the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act is being exploited by activists to score political points and financially destroy their opponents.

One example involves an LGBTQ activist bringing up to 37 complaints against a Queensland resident, Mr Bernard Gaynor, since 2014.

It is understood that the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board has allowed this seemingly vexatious behaviour of the activist who has described himself as “anti-free speech”.

I support the moving of the proposed Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Complaints Handling) Bill 2020, for the following reasons:

It would empower/make further provisions for the President of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board to decline certain complaints (i.e frivolous or vexatious); and remove the requirement for the President to refer declined complaints to NCAT (NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal).

The Bill also exempts interstate residents making their public comments interstate and ensures complaints cannot be accepted against people who have exemptions in other parts of the Act.

It is a significant bipartisan issue about free speech. The Bill updates the Act to take into account the new media environment that we live in, so that citizens can exercise their free speech on social media platforms without fear of ridiculous threats and costly litigation.