

Submission  
No 186

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 7 May 2020

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Partially  
Confidential

To whom it may concern

I have a shop, Pawn Shop at and for 28 years I have been putting signs out on a white board out the front –some just intended to be humorous some more political .

A few months ago as a reaction to what had been happening to Margaret Court and Israel Follau I put out a sign which said “ I always knew gay marriage was the thin end of the wedge but even I did not anticipate how intolerant and vindictive members of the LGBT Community could be “

Sometime in the morning a woman charged into the shop , ignored the fact I was talking to a customer , identified herself as a lesbian and told me the sign offended her and therefore I should remove it .

I refused to do so and suggested she was in fact acting in a manner which actually supported the truth of what I said in the sign .

She left in a huff rubbing out much of the sign as she left. It seems she had also illegally recorded our conversation on her phone.

About an hour later two council rangers turned up telling me they had had a complaint about my sign . I explained exactly what the sign had said before she erased most of it . They looked at one another said “Well that’s free speech isn’t it ? “ and left .

About an hour after that 3 police arrived and we had much the same conversation and they also decided it was just free speech too and left.

I also had another visit from someone from the council a few weeks later trying unsuccessfully to find fault with the position of my sign .

I had a facebook page called Pawn Shop and on this page Ms the original complainant and perhaps 20 members of her fellow members from the LBGT community trolled me for weeks –calling me among other things a homophobe and a bigot and hoping my business

would fail with several telling outright lies about having been to the shop and been treated discourteously . Several also went to the trouble of giving me negative reviews on Google .

I had put up a sign the following day which said in effect ‘I had no problem with homosexuality it was bullies I could not abide regardless of whether they came from business or government or the LGBT Community or The Mormon Tabernacle Choir for that matter ‘. But this did nothing to quench their desire to cause me harm . So I stopped responding in the hope it would die down which it did but of course my facebook page was trashed by all the criticism .

Then about a month ago I was contacted by an employee of the Anti-Discrimination Board to tell me MS [redacted] had made an official complaint against me re the sign. And that in order to avoid being brought up before the tribunal I had to agree to putting up a sign which said “ I apologise to any members of the LGBT community offended by my sign of a few weeks ago” keep it up for 3 days a post a copy of that sign on my facebook page.

I explained my point of view including the fact that the behaviour of MS [redacted] and her colleagues in fact confirmed the truth of what I had said on the sign.

The woman I spoke to was really quite pleasant but she explained to me that the legislation under which the board operated was designed to protect the LGBT Community, AIDs sufferers, and those criticised on the basis of their race from criticism that would reflect badly on them regardless of whether it was true or not . She said she believed this complaint was one that would be heard by the tribunal and that it was very possible they would decide in Ms [redacted] favour.

Despite feeling that this was truly outrageous I didn’t really have the time or stomach for such a process so took the easy way out , put out the sign for 3 days and posted the picture of the new sign to my facebook page . The woman from the department was as good as her word and as soon as I sent her a photo of the sign she closed the complaint straight away ..and I just closed my facebook page down as soon as she had done that .

The whole experience was mostly unpleasant but it was certainly educational both in terms of the extent of nastiness and vengefulness of Ms [redacted] and her mates but also in terms of how the law and the Antidiscrimination Board worked to encourage this sort of behaviour .

And it is so counterproductive in terms of shielding the various protected species from the feelings of the broader community . I for one feel much more antipathy towards the LBGT Community especially the “L” members of it as a result of it all than I did at the start .

Like many, probably most people these days , I couldn't care less what people do in the privacy of their own bedrooms but for the life of me I don't understand why their feelings are more important than those of the rest of us and the thought of taxpayers money being spent to do this really galling.

The irony for want of a better word in all this is that the behaviour of Ms [redacted] and her supporters absolutely validated the truth of what I wrote on the sign that day . Some of her gang were probably aware of that but nevertheless couldn't resist the opportunity to vent their hatred via their own hate speech confident that the law as it stand provides them with virtual immunity to behave as they wish without the repercussions the rest of us face.