Senate Committee
I am writing to make a submission regarding the above Bill.
Australia has always been recognised for its freedom of speech and it works very well and I cannot see why we need to fiddle with something that works.
I believe the speech given by Jim Spigelman expresses the ramifications that would occur if these proposed changes were to be implemented.

If there were any changes that needs to be made they should be that the new grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity be removed from the proposed Bill. The areas of political opinion, religious and marital or relationship status also need to be removed.

Where the Bill affects areas of life this should be applied to very limited areas (e.g employment) not all public life.

I believe that Section 19(2)(b) "other conduct that offends, insults or intimidates the other person." should be removed, otherwise the time honoured sledging in sports could end up in court.

In the area of Section 23 "Exceptions" these appear to be too vague and they should be very clear and defined. Likewise Sections 32 and 33 need to have a broad ranging exception for religious bodies where in Section 32 where all conduct conduct attracts an exception.

Section 33,3 Aged Care - should be removed with the exception where subsection does not apply where discrimination is not connected with the employment of persons providing that aged care.

Section 124 should be removed.

Section 51 relating to racial villification, should be removed from the proposed law.

Australians have also been known for their sense of humour and some of these laws would take that out of our society. Don't make us into a "nanny nation" ruled by those who get offended very easily and litigate too quickly.

Thank you
Alan Barnard