I'm sending this during my lunch break at work on the last day because its the first chance I've got since I found out about this to make a submission.

I am Transgender, my gender identity like many transgender people including my partner is not a simple male or female but moves from one to the other at times. I have heard that the antidiscrimination legislation is worded in such a way as to not protect me or my partner or most transgender people and only protects a small number of transgender people and I don't think that's good enough. We get bullied the same as or worse than those transgender people who you will be protecting, we get hassled in the street the same or worse, we run the same or worse risk of being bashed. We aren't doing anything wrong so why don't we get the same protections?

What do you mean by "genuine"? Who decides if we are genuine and how? You don't ask that about religions do you. So why have that there just for Transgender people, isn't that discrimination itself?

I have faced bullying and discrimination in the workplace for being female, so I know the importance of protection from it. A friend of mine I used to work with was bullied when it was found out they were a crossdresser, with clothing catalogues placed on their desk and humiliated because of traces of makeup that were spotted on them. Unless you protect Gender Expression and unless you protect the gender identities of all forms of transgender then you are saying that that discrimination was ok, and it is not ok.

I also know people who are Intersex. Intersex isn't just about Gender Identity, though they can have gender identities as both male and female or as neither male or female as well as either one or the other so you aren't even covering that properly, Intersex is also about sex characteristics, about differences of the body, and unless you are protecting them against discrimination because of that then you aren't protecting them properly.

I have a transsexual friend I've known pretty much my whole life. Who is so afraid of being attacked she hardly leaves the house. She is too worried about discrimination to get a job until she finishes her transition. The crossdressers I know also have great fear living an ordinary life, like going to restaurants as themselves and as the makeup bullying incident showed are right to be worried. Surely both should get the same protection from discrimination?

My partner suffered bad bullying in school, and is still hurting because of it many years after. Some of this bullying was because my partner didn't fit stereotypes of the sex they were considered to be, and it included being spat on, attacked with a chisel and struck with thrown stones. I myself suffered bullying at school in a variety of ways including being called a 'dyke' and 'man wannabe'. I was at the NSW parliamentary forum on homophobic bullying in schools with my partner and heard about what so many others have gone through. All school kids should be protected from that discrimination, including those whose gender identity isn't just male or just female. And I don't think religious schools and charities should be able to discriminate either. Its one thing for who they have in their churches, that's actually religious stuff, but at a school they have to look after the kids no matter what, a religion is for the community, they do not get to dictate to the community they are in and a street kid is a street kid no matter whether they are gay or transgender or not so they shouldn't be able to discriminate there either.

Kids should not have permanent choices made on them either. For the same reason we ban female circumcision we should ban surgery on Intersex babies that aren't needed apart from lifesaving procedures and let the kid tell us what they are when they are old enough and decide on any surgery when they are old enough for that too. Anything else is abuse. For the same reason those transgender kids who don't want to go through puberty should be able to get hormone-blockers till they are old enough to decide to stop taking them or to move on to hormones. And this is the same way it should work for male circumcision too, doing that to a child who doesn't get a chance to choose for themself is discrimination too. We protect our girls from it, the gender section of this legislation should protect boys from it equally. For whatever reason religious, cultural or otherwise it should be the childs own choice when they are older not one made for them by people who wont know if the child would have agreed to it or not. That’s not fair and is abusive.

Some people are worried about freedom of speech. Well freedom of speech is about being able to talk about any topic and opinion not about being able to bully people. Free speech does not cover verbal violence/abuse; harassment hate-speech or bullying. Bullying people is about forcing them to silence so they don't get their own freedom of speech. So as long as we can talk about anything in a respectful manner then fine, but anything that is bullying is not free speech at all, it's anti free speech.

People shouldn't be forced to hide who they truly are inside for fear that they will get bullied bashed or fired when they aren't doing anything unethical, when they aren't hurting anyone. Aren't we all supposed to be equal? Well then this new law is needed, but it should protect the entire gender/sex spectrum not just some specific points on said spectrum.

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