Dear Sirs,

We find that the Draft Exposure of this Bill throws up many worries for Christians such as ourselves. Especially worrying is the inclusion of 'gender identity' and 'sexual orientation' as new grounds for discrimination.

Presumably gender identities include some or all of those enumerated in the Australian Human Rights Commission's 'Protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity' discussion paper. (http://www.newsweekly.com.au/docs/2010/sogi-discussion-paper-ahrc.pdf). These are transgender, trans, transsexual, intersex, androgynous, agender, a cross dresser, a drag king, a drag queen, genderfluid, genderqueer, intergender, neutrois, pansexual, pan-gendered, a third gender, a third sex, sistergirl and brotherboy. Apart from the few (and very rare genetic disorders) these all describe either deliberate sinful behaviours or evidence of a seriously disturbed mind. It is interesting to note that the only real genders of male and female aren't even included! Similarly, the only legitimate 'sexual orientation' is towards one's husband or wife. The Bible is clear that anything outside of this is sin.

Including these new grounds for discrimination will make criminals out of a great number of Christians who will be forced to use their conscience to discriminate between good and evil in such matters at their workplace. These professions include anyone who works in a counselling role, anyone involved in industries associated with marriage ceremonies, those involved in the hotel industry etc etc.

Because of the likelihood of this law being used to persecute Christians, we ask the committee to recommend that it be scrapped.

Yours sincerely,

Dr & Mrs Christopher & Katharina Hopwood