To whomever it may concern,

While I believe that any attempt to prevent blatant discrimination of any group is an important and crucial issue I do not perceive that the proposed changes to the bill will necessarily help in the intended ways. I am providing this submission to indicate my concerns as a citizen of this nation and to use my democratic rights to have a statement on issues concerned in the government of our land.

"The major reforms proposed in the Bill include:

- ***a single, simplified test for discrimination;***
- ***introduction of additional protected attributes, including protections against sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination and extension of protections against relationship discrimination to same-sex couples in any area of public life; and recognition of discrimination on the basis of a combination of attributes;***
- ***coverage of discrimination and sexual harassment in any area of public life;***
- ***a streamlined approach to exceptions;***
- ***additional measures to assist and promote voluntary compliance with the Bill;***
- ***improvements to the complaints process; and***
- ***rationalisation of some functions of the Australian Human Rights Commission."***

The very greatest issue I hold is in the use of the term 'discrimination'. As a term I believe that currently it holds very loose definition and question how this term is being applied as responds to the bill. Does this idea of discrimination remove the ability for an individual to criticise rationally an ideological or emotional idea? Is this idea of discrimination a blanket term that could in theory be utilised politically to alter religious freedoms or individual's freedom to speak democratically? If so I argue that this is a false idea of discrimination.

I believe it is clear that we cannot allow any form of discrimination, which leads persecution of individuals or groups. My very real concern is if the idea of discrimination is taken as a blanket term or is only applied to the discrimination of particular minority groups then other groups will in turn be discriminated against. I would ask and question whether the concept of discrimination needs to be further defined. I would ask that this happens in order that in trying to prevent a specific discrimination form more discrimination for religious, ethnic or cultural groups does not occur.