To the Gillard government:

Inquiry: Exposure Draft of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

As a fifth generation Australian and married to a descendant of the first Australians, I take much pride in our nation and wholeheartedly value all that this amazing country has offered myself and my extended family over the generations that I know of.

I have travelled to over twenty countries in my lifetime, some communist, some under Sharia law, and at least one where no worship of any god was allowed at all. These countries made me so glad to call Australia home although I was ever so grateful to have visited these countries so long as that's all it was- a visit.

My concern is that if this proposal goes ahead Australia will not be the country we have known and loved and whom great percentages have died for, or the country that so many in the world (even with our age old extreme weather conditions) literally die for in trying to make it here.

As a country founded on Judeo Christian values, and who fought for Israel in both world wars thereby reaping the blessings as promised by God Himself in Genesis 12:3, this proposal will only serve to diminish our Judeo Christian heritage even further than what we are already seeing in society and public schools. The history of all nations will prove how accurate Gen 12:3 is even though it was written almost 5,000 years ago.

Furthermore, apart from a huge financial cost to the taxpayer of the anticipated endless meaningless claims, many probably just to gain a fast buck or to vilify, it is the Christians (which compromise of a huge percentage of our Indigenous people as well

as Anglo Saxons, Eastern & Western Europeans & Asians) & also Jews who will lose out. The very ones who have done so much to build this country to what it is.

I feel they will lose out because bible-believing Christians are told to live at peace as much as it depends on us (Romans 12:18) so I can't see that Christians will be running to the courts when they are insulted, and believe me, we get insulted every day just opening up a newspaper usually or hearing what your child is taught at school or what they are NOT allowed to be taught for fear of offending someone and this is BEFORE any legislation.

Christians are offended for Jesus every day and it is harder each year in the FREE west to fulfill the great commission that He commanded us and that is to take the Gospel (good news) to the nations. All that keeps us content is knowing that what is happening now was all forewarned in His Word (eg:1 Peter 4:13) so we have confidence that He is still in control and to keep the faith (Hebrews 10:19). He taught us to love and pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44) which is what bible believing Christians do so we certainly are not going to fuel hatred with a lawsuit, we're told to heap hot coals on their heads instead- by **loving** them (Proverbs 25:22). A law suit is not how to save the lost. However when the Holy Spirit prompts us to speak truth (Mark 12:36), even though that truth may offend some or bring about a feeling of conviction (Hebrews 4:12), a Christian longs to obey and to do otherwise would crush our spirits. We know when God speaks through us His words will not return to him void (Isaiah 55:11) but how our beautiful nation fares by further excluding Him from our society and making life harder for his people will be better not put to the test.

Jesus was our role model for suffering offence when he humbly went to the cross after been verbally mocked and attacked as well as physically beaten to a pulp and hung up naked. He is our God and many Jews as well are now coming to realize Him as their God too which was also prophesied to happen in Romans 11:25.

In fact Jesus is everyone's God but years of family squabbles and unforgiving bitterness has kept many from knowing Him and these are the very ones who will be using and abusing this law which will make the average Aussie too scared to tell a joke and have a laugh and that will be a very sad day for Australia because the Aussie

humor & overall camaraderie between each other is known around the world and envied.

We have seen what happens when someone's god other than the Christian God is offended not just in Australia but around the world.

It will go further than just anti- Christian attacks and anti-Semitic attacks, it will be everything that the Torah/Bible says, so that many parents will be afraid to teach their children what the Torah/Bible says for fear that they and their children will be sued because the Torah/Bible clearly warns against certain acts which are now legal (e.g.: abortion- see Leviticus 18:21, Exodus 21:22, Exodus 20:13) and it also clearly ordains marriage as a gift from God and between a man and a woman in Genesis 2:24 so to speak of these laws/commands/instructions which were for the purpose of our own wellbeing and prosperity and continuation (first to Israel and whomever wanted to join them and then to the entire creation) will now become taboo, even in our schools (which is rapidly happening anyway) and eventually in our own homes as well.

So I would request that this proposal, for the benefit of ALL Australians, does not eventuate and that we may be a world leader in multi-ethnicity instead, and not following the patterns that other nations that have clearly rejected God are doing- dare I say for FEAR of another Sept 11or Libya Embassy attack, or other nations who are in complete turmoil who HAVE these discrimination laws.

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne Pratt