

Submission re **Exposure Draft of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.**

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This seems an appalling intrusion into freedom of speech.

Any reasonable critique of anything, or comment on any matter where people have strong opinions, could easily offend or insult anybody.

Freedom of speech is a universal right to which Australia has pledged support through international treaty.

Freedom of religion is a universal right to which Australia has pledged support, and which is closely linked with freedom of speech.

Some people will always be offended by the exercise of both. This should not be a concern of the law, and the law should not enable vexatious response to offence or inadvertent insult.

There is no such thing as the right not to be offended.

Anybody should have the right and freedom to offend or insult me if they are not otherwise breaking the law by defamation etc.

The onus of proof should never be reversed.

I support Jim Spigelman's comments in the Australian newspaper 11/12/12.