**Submission to:**

**Consultation: Protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity**

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment the Australian Human Rights Commission’s short consultation regarding the Commission’s call for federal protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity.

You state that currently federal law protects against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability and age.

I oppose the Commission’s call for protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity in federal anti-discrimination law.

In particular, there would be no benefit would there be in federal anti-discrimination laws prohibiting discrimination extending to sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity.

These are not constructs with which a person is born. This is demonstrated by the fact that a person can change, for example from homosexual to heterosexual. The research shows that there are many factors in a person’s life which can cause people to have issues around these matters.

As these are not fixed by nature, but rather can change according to the way a person chooses to think or live their life, it does not fall into the same grouping as race, sex, disability or age, with which a person is born (the rare class of ‘intersex’ people, born with indeterminate sexual organs, is a separate issue, and one on which a decision will be made at an early stage in the person’s life).

To encourage a person to live according to the way they **think** about themself, and seek to enforce this thinking on others, is not beneficial to the individual or society, but rather compounds confusion. There would therefore be no benefit in the Federal government enacting such legislation, and on the contrary, it would be detrimental for the people involved, and society as a whole.

Accordingly, I strongly recommend that there should be no change in the current Federal discrimination laws.

I note that I give permission for my comments to be published **without my name.**

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to comment on the consultation.