

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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Submission Text:

As a democracy we value our freedom to express our own personal political and religious views without fear. These views ought to be able to be scrutinised, responded to, mocked, argued with, agreed with, without fear of legal retribution. Where a person oversteps the right to freedom of speech by making threatening and encouraging violence against a religious person or group - these protections are already in place through our existing laws.

As a Bible believing Christian myself I am not unacquainted with having my religious faith ridiculed and mocked. It is the price I pay for the freedom I enjoy to express that faith. The expression of my faith includes subjecting alternative worldviews to criticism that I believe are incompatible with the 'truth' and 'reality' as I see it. A person of an alternative religious persuasion ought to have that same right to criticise my faith. If his argument fails then I am strengthened in my faith - if he succeeds, then I am wiser for it. We don't need an Orwellian 'thought police' in Australia. Let us be free to trade in the marketplace of religious ideas without the nanny culture of government telling us how to think. When government overly interferes in religion it either creates an insipid brand of its own blend of religion or persecutes those it disagrees with.