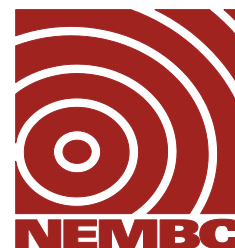


MEDIA RELEASE

22 April 2014



Racial Discrimination Act

There is one week left to have your say in the proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act.

'The Federal Government is proposing changes that will make vilification harder to prove and we fear it will create a culture where bigotry becomes more acceptable', said the NEMBC Executive Officer Russell Anderson.

'The new law might allow people to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate you on the basis of your race, colour or ethnic origin so long as it doesn't incite a third party to hatred or cause fear of physical harm', he said.

'A letter from you or your radio station can make a difference. We appeal to you to write a letter, or make a submission to the Attorney General's office', he said.

There is no required format and a letter expressing your view or your personal experience can be enough. Please send a letter to the Government before **30 April 2014** in response to the proposed changes.

To see a short sample letter with some talking points and more information go to the NEMBC website: www.nembc.org.au

What people are saying about the changes:

"[The changes] risk dragging us back to an ugly time when racism was tolerated in our institutions, practices, in workplaces and on the streets" Giri Sivaraman (Maurice Blackburn Lawyers) and Jessica McLean (Macquarie University), *Crikey*.

"the Abbott government's proposed legislation really would allow for almost any racist speech you can imagine" Waleed Aly, Sydney Morning Herald.

For more information contact the NEMBC Secretariat
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