

DEFEAT THE LAW THAT UNDERMINES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Anti Discrimination Amendment (Religious Tolerance) Bill 2005

To the President and Members of the **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL** of New South Wales in Parliament Assembled: The humble petitioners and citizens of New South Wales call upon the NSW State Government:

1. Religious freedom essentially includes the freedom to teach, preach and propagate one's beliefs, and to express opinions about other world-views. This applies for all religions and certainly for the Christian religion where Christ commands His followers to propagate their faith (Matthew 28:18-20).
2. The *Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Tolerance) Bill* includes heavy fines and imprisonment to deter vilification. The effect of this is that 'one religious group cannot frankly and openly speak of another religion for fear of vilification'. This law undermines freedom of speech with respect to religion.

In any case, the legislation is unnecessary since our community has perfectly effective mechanisms for correcting intemperate or offensive statements, whether on religion, race or any other topic – namely public forums in newspapers, open debate and discussion, talk-back radio etc.

In view of the fact that the Australian Constitution: (a) forbids the making of any Commonwealth law “prohibiting the free exercise of any religion” (Section 116), and (b) decrees that “when a State law is inconsistent with a law of the Commonwealth, the latter shall prevail...” (Section 109).

And your petitioners therefore request that the *Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Tolerance) Bill* be defeated, and, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

SIGNATURES ON FRONT ONLY

Please return all completed petitions to the Office of Rev the Hon Dr Gordon Moyes AC MLC,
Parliament House, Macquarie St, SYDNEY NSW 2000.