

Brad Byquar



3rd December 2018

Dear Mr. Russo,

I am one of your constituents from Salisbury East. I understand that you are the Chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

I am writing with concern of the proposed re-naming of 'The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner' to 'The Queensland Human Rights Commissioner' or 'The Queensland Human Rights Commission'.

Firstly, there is no public submission process after the bill had been introduced and made public.

As a forty-eight year old urban Aboriginal / South Sea Islander man I have experienced and continue to experience discrimination often enough that I can't put a number amount to it.

I'm concerned that;

- 1) Indigenous peoples and other non-Anglo's may perceive human rights ie The Queensland Human Rights Commission as 'white-peoples business'. I'm concerned that the name will be hijacked over time and come to mean freedom of speech issues eg "it's okay to be white", 18C, George Brandis'; "people have a right to be bigots", etc. therefore the Human Right Commission isn't doing their job.
- 2) A Queensland Human Rights Commission will, I suspect, lead to confusion and non-Anglo citizens will step back from participating and making legitimate complaints because the name is too questionable. The role of the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland is defined in the name. It's simple and well understood.
- 3) Having the name Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland acts as a reminder that discrimination is all too real. I perceive the name change to The Queensland Human Rights Commission as a form of white-washing.

Call it the Queensland Human Rights Anti-Discrimination Commission if you like, however please don't take out the words Anti-Discrimination. It sends a direct signal to the wider community.

Yours sincerely

Bradley Byquar