



LAPCSESC
ID Laws
Submission 001

11 November 2011

Secretary
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services & Emergency Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane 4000

Ref: Identification Laws Amendment Bill 2011

I welcome the opportunity of contributing the following comments in relation to the above.

While I have no objection to people wearing whatever they wish, provided it is sensitive, modest and doesn't bare offensive language or racist symbols I have great anxiety when seeing anyone male or female who needs to hide their face.

When travelling or living abroad I accept there is an expectation that you observe, comply if necessary, or at least be sensitive to the culture of that country and its accepted standard of dress.

Like the regulations for driving a car, while civil liberties may be considered, the individual's rights should not overarch the greater good and safety of the community.

Since the increase in terrorist activity globally it is regrettable that the average citizen now faces dangers that would never have been envisaged in the past, outside of a war zone. While Australia has been largely free of this scourge it is only a matter of time.

The apparent increase in robbery and assaults brazenly undertaken with the 'protection' of face coverings, i.e. hats, sunglasses, balaclavas, hoodies and scarves / bandanas is self-evident.

My view is that in Queensland's climate none of this apparel should be normally worn indoors or outdoors unless it is for medical reasons, sunscreen purposes or for work requirements.

The deterrent of crime is paramount. In normal person-to-person interaction if a person covers their face it suggests to me that they are either very insecure, have a personality problem, are very rude (in the case of sunglasses) or more to the point, concealing their face for an unlawful purposes.

For the above reasons I fully support the banning of face coverings, regardless of gender, in public places. As well I support legislation that will enable appointed police and security offices to enforce such a law throughout Queensland's public spaces and private and public places of business.

Georgina Pickers.