




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION (RIGHT TO USE GENDER-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.50 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Anti-Discrimination (Right to Use Gender-Specific Language) Amendment Bill 2018. I listened to the member for South Brisbane's contribution. I have worked in a lot of different areas—the fishing industry, the mining industry. I have never seen workers in those industries have their integrity questioned about the way they treat people in terms of decency and respect. Those guys are rough and tumble but are always decent. If someone is down, it does not matter where they are from or who they are, they will stand by them. They are the facts.

Political correctness has now become ingrained amongst our elite. Even a global pandemic has not stopped them censoring forms of speech which not so long ago were considered entirely the norm in this country. Just last month, the UN interrupted its busy schedule to push for a radical overthrow of democracy around the globe to lecture the public on the use of gender-neutral language. A helpful list of suggestions was provided by the UN, some of which were baffling to say the least. For example, it suggested replacing the word 'landlord' with 'owner' to which one might ask, 'The owner of what exactly?' 'Businessman' should be replaced with 'representative', despite the fact that the two words mean completely different things. Words like 'boyfriend', 'girlfriend', 'husband' and 'wife' are too gender-specific to be used anymore. Instead, the UN told us the words 'partner' or 'spouse' must replace them. It is complete madness.

There is absolutely nothing offensive or exclusionary about any of these terms and words. To categorise them otherwise goes against the commonsense views of ordinary Australians. Freedom of speech needs as much protection as it can get nowadays. This is what the bill seeks to achieve. To quote the bill's explanatory notes—

... there has been an increase in direct and implied limitations on the use of traditional gender based language ... in government and non-government employment environments as well as educational institutions, the defence force and the provision of public and private facilities and services.

Accordingly, the policy objectives of this bill are twofold: to protect an individual's free speech right to use gender-specific language; and to protect the rights of small business owners from legal attack or commercial disadvantage should they fail to provide services and facilities that imply there are only two genders as opposed to the nearly 60-odd new gender categories we are now told exist.

According to this year's Australia Talks social survey, over two-thirds of Australians believe that political correctness has gone too far and that certain segments are much too easily offended. This disapproval of political correctness is a majority view across age groups and income groups as well as the states and territories. The survey also highlighted the fact that the older you are, the poorer you are and the less educated, the more strongly you felt on this issue. Even amongst immigrants, the majority view was against political correctness. For recent immigrants it was 55 per cent against; for immigrants who had been here for 10 years or more it actually jumped to 70 per cent. The survey does not identify the rural or regional vote, but UN lectures on 'safe space' language do not go too well where I come

from. Why? It is because we do treat people with respect. Members may think there is difference, but we really do. To quote my fellow Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee member and deputy chair James Lister, there is a 'pervasive scorn for this creeping use of gender-specific language and political correctness'.

Mr Rob Katter, state leader of the Katter party and sponsor of this bill, has made it clear that the amendments are not intended to stop anyone from using gender-neutral language if they choose to, nor does the bill seek to condone the use of gender-specific language in a discriminatory or harassing way. The amendments purely seek to support the multitude of ordinary Queenslanders who feel deeply alienated about the new 'woke' or 'safe space' culture and to support their right to use speech norms they grew up using and are comfortable with. They are people from all races, classes and creeds who are much more worried about paying their rent, keeping their jobs and saving their businesses than what is currently an acceptable word to use for any given situation. It is these people that the bill will hopefully shield from the contemporary call-out and punish culture of our entitled elites in the government and government protected institutions.