

**E-mail Message**

---

**From:** ">Mark Smith [SMTP:"Mark Smith" ]  
**To:** [civil.law \[NOTES:\]](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** 16/04/2008 at 9:44 AM  
**Received:** 16/04/2008 at 9:47 AM  
**Subject:** Exceptions Review

---

**Attachments:** Notes Properties for the document  
Notes Information exported to RTF (Rich text format)

---

Greetings

It has been brought to my attention that the government is reviewing the exceptions and exemptions in the Equal Opportunity Act. My understanding is that there is consideration being given to removing exceptions in sections 75, 76 and 77.

The removal of such exemptions would remove religious freedoms that are currently held not just in Victoria but in Australia. Such a removal would potentially force individuals and groups to go against their religious convictions and beliefs. Churches must and should be able to hire ministers who are in step with the beliefs and practises of that Church. Same goes for Christian/religious schools hiring teachers. If these are taken away, then discrimination occurs. Your responsibility is to ensure that the freedoms of ALL Victorians are protected.

I request that the three religious exceptions - Sections 75, 76 and 77 - in the Equal Opportunity Act of 1995 be kept without change.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Smith

Pastor - Drouin Presbyterian Church

[mark@drouinpresbyterian.org.au](mailto:mark@drouinpresbyterian.org.au)

1 Church St Drouin 3818

5625 4112

0417 568 701