

**E-mail Message**

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**From:** ">Malcolm White [SMTP:"Malcolm White" ]  
**To:** "]>Exceptions Review [NOTES:"Exceptions Review" ]  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** 18/04/2008 at 11:15 AM  
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Exceptions Review  
Department of Justice  
Victoria

I write in relation to the current review of exceptions to the Equal Opportunity Act 1995  
In particular to the right of every person to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the freedom to demonstrate his or her religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching, either individually or as part of a community, in public or in private.

I write in support of this stated right to religious freedom

For this right to be exercised in practice it is essential that the exceptions to discrimination based on religion as stated in sections 75, 76, and 77 of the Act be fully retained.

To reduce any of those exceptions, or remove any of them, would effectively be a denial of the right, in practice, of religious freedom.

There does need to be a greater recognition of the benefits that the Christian faith in particular has contributed to Australian society. Too frequently today people like to highlight shortcomings without taking account of the many more strengths that are forthcoming from Christian individuals and institutions. To remove those exceptions from the Act would be a direct attack upon the integrity and practice of the Christian faith in this country and would be a great loss for society in general.

The "Exceptions Review" is urged not to change Sections 75, 76 and 77 of the Equal Opportunity Act 1995.

I write this submission on behalf of the Church Council of the Mordialloc and Parkdale Parish of the Uniting Church who resolved unanimously to express this view.

Malcolm White  
Minister