



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Assembly

MEDIA RELEASE

Spotlight on anti-vilification protections

Victoria’s anti-vilification laws are being examined by the Legislative Assembly’s Legal and Social Issues Committee, which is inviting public submissions to its new inquiry.

The Committee’s inquiry will focus on the effectiveness of the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*, its possible expansion and/or extension of protections beyond existing classes.

“Our anti-vilification laws are designed to prevent conduct that incites hatred against particular groups based on their race or religion, and this review is looking at whether our laws are adequate or need to be strengthened,” said Committee Chair Natalie Suleyman.

Under the inquiry’s terms of reference, the cross-party Committee will consider the best ways to address online vilification at a state and federal level, and best practice legislative models from other jurisdictions.

The Committee is inviting submissions from organisations with expertise in these matters, as well as members of the community who have experiences and suggestions that they wish to share.

“We welcome submissions from those who can provide evidence on the matters covered by the inquiry’s terms of reference,” Ms Suleyman said.

“We are also interested in any evidence of increased vilification or hate conduct in Victoria,” Ms Suleyman said

The Committee will be considering whether there are any groups not currently protected under the legislation who should be.

“We are also keen to hear from community members who can provide us with their stories so that we can base our findings and recommendations on the lived experiences of people across Victoria,” Ms Suleyman said.

Public submissions are open until 20 December 2019.

Further information on the inquiry, including on how to make a submission, is available from the Committee’s [website](#).

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