

FACT SHEET

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

The Bill implements the recommendations of the Final Report of the *Review of the Complaints Handling and Dispute Resolution Provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1998*.

It includes a number of minor amendments that will streamline and improve the processes in the Act, resulting in more effective and equitable outcomes for complainants and respondents.

The more significant amendments included in this Bill are: the amendment to better describe gender identity, including transgenderism, transexualism and intersex, and the inclusion of these attributes into section 16; the inclusion of all attributes in section 16 into section 17 to prevent offence, humiliation, intimidation, insults or ridicule.

The Bill also includes a process and criteria to be met by a religious school or a schools system in applying for an exemption from the provision of the Act that prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion which would allow the preferential admission of students from the particular religion;

The Bill also has provisions which will allow the Commissioner to undertake own-motion investigations; allow the Commissioner to amend a complaint where necessary; and allow the Commissioner to attempt to resolve complaints by any means possible and at any stage before, during or after the investigation process.