



CHINESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA 澳華社區議會
VICTORIAN CHAPTER 維州分部

CCCAV Media Release – 15th Apr 2014

Racial Discrimination Act amendments are disastrous on all fronts.

Chinese Community Council of Australia, Victorian Chapter (CCCAV) strongly opposes the Federal government's proposed amendment to the Racial Discrimination Act.

Dr. Anne Pang, the Acting President of CCCAV said “there are four main areas of concern in the amendments, namely Australia's international standing, economic ramifications, legal inconsistencies and social disorder.”

“Policies that support diversity, equality of all peoples and democracy have become civic values that shape the Australian identity.”

“Changing the Act at the risk of immeasurable negative impact and allowing episodes of racism and bigotry to prevail in the name of freedom of speech is not justified.”

The proposed changes open doors for racial insults and Australia's international standing will be undermined to the extent where there is the risk of potentially breaching obligations under the *UN International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)*.

After a number of race related incidents in 2009 towards Indian international students, there was a 46% drop in the number of Indian students. This translates into almost \$1.7 billion loss of revenue.

Dr Anne Pang said “increasing in race related incidents and offences can negatively impact our economy through loss in the number of international students, foreign trade, tourism, business and skilled migration, export of goods and services and the loss of human talents, not to mention the associated job losses for us Australians.”

On the legal front, the amendments purport to protect freedom of speech, yet there are a number of other laws governing defamation, blasphemy, copyright, obscenity, incitement, official secrecy, contempt of court and of Parliament, censorship and sedition which also affect this freedom. All of these laws recognise that some things are more important than freedom of speech.

If “freedom of speech” is the argument, should all abovementioned legislations that restrict “freedom of speech” be repealed? Why is ONLY the anti-racism act being amended in the name of freedom of speech?

The Federal Government must come clean on the real reasons for only repealing the Race Discrimination Act. The community certainly does NOT support the amendments.

CCCAV is a peak advocacy body and represents over thirty Chinese community groups.

澳華社區議會維州分會新聞稿-2014 年 4 月 15 日

修订种族歧视法将在各方面造成灾难性影响

澳华社区议会维州分会发言人表示，联邦政府修订种族歧视法的计划是“灾难性的”。

总检察长乔治·布兰迪斯计划对种族歧视法进行修订的具体改动草稿近日被泄露出来，为解读法案修改可能造成的影响，众多多元文化社团纷纷举办社区论坛。在 4 月 11 日由世界华人体育联合总会举办的《反对种族歧视法修改意见社区联合论坛》上，澳华社区议会维州分会代理主席黄碧瑶博士发表了对政府修订该法律计划的强烈批评。

黄博士从四个方面抨击了修订该法可能导致的负面影响：国际地位，经济后果，法律不稳和社会动乱。

“在崇尚包容的澳大利亚社会，支持多元化、人人平等及民主的政策，已成为塑造我们身份的公民价值观。实践证明现有法案行之有效，改变法律将造成不可估量的负面影响及允许打着言论自由旗号进行的种族主义和攻击行为。冒着这些风险修改法律是说不过去的。”

“澳大利亚的国际地位将受到影响，我们还可能会面临违反联合国消除一切形式种族歧视公约（ICERD）的风险。”

黄博士还说明了修改该法对经济的严重影响，“诸如国际学生、外贸、旅游、商业及技术移民，货物服务出口以及吸引杰出人才等各个方面都存在着巨大的隐患，更何况由此引起的就业流失。”

在 2009 至 2010 年间发生的一系列袭击事件后，印度学生人数下降了 46 %。这就是一个值得引以为鉴的例子。学生流失给澳大利亚造成了约十七亿元的财政收入损失。2010 年时，印度学生联合会声明，“种族攻击是学生流失背后的主要原因之一。”

在法律方面，本次修订宣称旨在保护言论自由。但言论自由已经受到了一系列针对诽谤、亵渎、版权、淫秽、煽动、保密、蔑视法庭及议会、审查和煽动等方面相关法律的保护。但政府为什么决定以言论自由的名义单单对反种族主义法进行修订？

允许种族诽谤和恐吓在例如报纸、书籍一类的平面媒体刊登并通过如广播、电视和互联网一类的音频和视觉手段传播只会导致社会混乱。修订该法，让“可能”的诽谤攻击仅仅适用于占主导地位的主流白人社会。这样的标准只会分化社会并毁灭所有白澳政策结束以来形成的种族宽容及多元化的社会价值观。

“请要马上行动，响亮而清晰的传达我们的呼声。”你可以发送电子邮件给政府邮箱：

s18consultation@ag.gov.au ,或寄信到 **Human Rights Policy Branch Attorney General's Department 3-5 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600**。信件不需要词汇严谨，可以只是一个手写的便条，最重要的是能够表达你个人的关注。如果你英文有限，信件可以用中文写作。如果你不知道信件内容该怎么写，最简单的方法就是登录到我们的网站 cccavic.org.au 下载说明。在这个特殊的时刻，我们恳请你，用最有效的合法方式将你的声音传达给政府。”

黄博士认为，我们也应该从积极的方面看待这一令人不安的修订。正因为这个修订计划，无数社区的人们能够为了共同的目标团结在了一起，发出共同的呼声。因此也真正体现了民主的真谛。



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