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PROLIFERATION OF RACIAL HATERED

“The Turnbull government has proposed a change to the Racial Discrimination Act that will lead to the proliferation of “hate speech”, said Russell Anderson, Executive Officer of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters’ Council (NEMBC).

The NEMBC strongly urges its members to actively lobby the Federal Government to prevent proposed changes being made to Section 18C of the Racial Vilification Act.

Mr Anderson further added “The proposed changes are to replace ‘offend’, ‘humiliate’ and ‘insult’ with ‘harass’. While this seems minor, proving harassment will be more difficult. Worst still, replacing these words will send a message that it’s ok to humiliate and insult. This change does nothing in promoting free speech which is adequately covered by the provision within 18D of the Act.

The Federal Government’s decision to pursue the watering down of protection against racial vilification is at odds with the major recommendations from the Parliamentary Committee and fundamental principles of Multicultural Australia, so we at the NEMBC very strongly oppose the amendments to Section 18C.

We call on the Prime Minister and his Government to strike out the proposed amendment and listen to the voice of Australia’s ethnic and religious faith communities, to cease and desist from changing 18C,” Mr Anderson said.

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