



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA – COMMITTEES

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

### Terms of Reference

59th Parliament

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#### **Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections**

**On 12 September 2019, the Legislative Assembly agreed to the following motion:**

That this house refers, an inquiry into current anti-vilification laws, their possible expansion, and/or extension of protections beyond existing classes to the Legal and Social Issues Committee for consideration and report no later than 1 September 2020.

The Committee should consider:

- 1) The effectiveness of the operation of the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001* (the Act) in delivering upon its purposes;
- 2) The success or otherwise of enforcement of the Act, and the appropriateness of sanctions in delivering upon the Act's purposes;
- 3) Interaction between the Act and other state and Commonwealth legislation;
- 4) Comparisons in the operation of the Victorian Act with legislation in other jurisdictions;
- 5) The role of state legislation in addressing online vilification.
- 6) The effectiveness of current approaches to law enforcement in addressing online offending.
- 7) Any evidence of increasing vilification and hate conduct in Victoria;
- 8) Possible extension of protections or expansion of protection to classes of people not currently protected under the existing Act;
- 9) Any work underway to engage with social media and technology companies to protect Victorians from vilification.