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# India Club Inc

15<sup>th</sup> April 2014

To: Human Rights Policy Branch  
Attorney-General's Department

## **India Club believes the Government's proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act will impair harmony and social cohesion in Australia**

India Club is a not-for-profit organization of progressive people of Indian origin and Australians, and actively promotes harmony, goodwill and worthy interests of the Indian Australian community in Australia.

On 13 April 2014, India Club members met and resolved to convey their deep concern regarding the Government's proposed changes repealing sections 18 B, C, D and E of the Racial Discrimination Act and inserting different and much weaker provisions in their place.

The proposed changes including the exemptions will offer a green light to the exercise of hate speech, threatening harmony and social cohesion between the culturally diverse communities, including all minority and majority communities in Australia. These changes will permit negative, offensive and divisive language and behaviour, as well as diminish any chance of getting a fair trial by the victims of intimidation and vilification.

As India Club members strive to reaffirm existing noble Australian commitment to a harmonious, multicultural society free of hate speech and conflicts; India Club urges the Government not to proceed with and completely withdraw any such proposed changes detrimental to the well being of Australians.

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