

Dear IC Members & Friends,

**A very important India Club meeting on Sunday 13th April,**

**absolute must for you and your friends to attend.**

**All** are welcome, please forward this message and publicise.

## Community discussion and required Action on

“Racial Discrimination Act 1975, Government proposed changes”,

**an extremely important issue adversely affecting us all.**

**Sunday the 13th<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 2 pm to 5pm**

IC Get together at **Epping Leisure and Learning Centre,**

1, Chambers Court, Epping

Below Epping Library (Off Pembroke Street)

Please *RSVP* to help organize light refreshments:

**Shubha Kumar 98731207/ 0402 257 588**

Email: [Shubha.kumar.indiaclub@gmail.com](mailto:Shubha.kumar.indiaclub@gmail.com)

You may be aware, the Federal Government has released an exposure draft of proposed changes to the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*. These changes revolve around Section 18, which prohibits speech which “offends, insults, intimidates or humiliates” a person based on their race or ethnicity.

**The community concern is that these changes would give a green light to the worst types of hate speech. It will have negative consequences for us all.** You may see:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/Mediareleases/Pages/2014/First%20Quarter/25March2014-RacialDiscriminationAct.aspx>

Section 18 of the *Racial Discrimination Act* has provided redress for people who experience racial abuse for almost twenty years.

The current law does not make racial abuse a criminal offence, but gives

people an opportunity to report racial abuse to the Australian Human Rights Commission or seek legal redress through the courts.

Under the Government's proposals, existing protections against racially motivated attacks are significantly narrowed and the exemptions to the law are expanded.

Most strikingly, these changes would shield and privilege behaviour that promotes conflict, resentment or hatred between people and enshrine what the Coalition Attorney-General, Senator George Brandis, has called the "right to be a bigot."

**We believe that no one should have the right to abuse or threaten others with racially charged language. The changes threaten the harmony of our community and the wellbeing of Australians of diverse backgrounds.**

The Federal Government is inviting submissions from the general community on the proposed changes and **we strongly urge you to take up the opportunity for action.**

**Together, we will strive to reaffirm Australia's commitment to a harmonious, multicultural society free of hate speech.**

Looking forward to see you on the day,

Shubha Kumar

President: India Club Inc.

Mob +61 (0) 420 747 080

Tel +61 2 9873 1207

Dr Aksheya Kumar

JP, Chairman: India Club Inc.

Coordinator: Indian Community Forum and IC & ICF Programs

Mob +61 (0) 420 747 080



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