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**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 12:06 PM  
**To:** PRL Independent Review Secretariat  
**Subject:** Hate Speech laws

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Hello, I support the measures to tighten hate speech laws, in theory.

I have experienced a lot of anti-Semitism firsthand and have even reported it to the police. I can see how these laws could protect marginal communities, in theory. However, in practice, I have a few concerns:

1. Who determines what is hate speech? If I were to chant "From the River to The Sea, Palestine will be Free" would that be hate speech? What if I were to chant "From the River to The Sea, Israel will be Free". What about chanting "Death to the IDF"? Is that hate speech? What about "Death to Hamas"? Or "Death to Gazans"? If I were to chant "I disagree with the tenants of Christianity?" is that hate speech? What about "I disagree with the tenants of Islam"? What if I were to chant "Eff Christianity"? Or "Eff Islam"? Is that hate speech? If the former is not hate speech but the later is, where do you draw the line between? And who gets to make that decision? Who is the arbiter? That could even apply on an individual level. If I were to tell someone to "Go eff yourself" is that hate speech? What if it's misconstrued to be an act of hate against someone's identity, rather than against that individual?

Is this hate speech? [Greens candidate defends telling Christians their beliefs are a joke in expletive-laden spray | SBS News](#) What if the same were said about Islam? Or Buddhism? Or Judaism? Or the LGBTQIA+ community? or...

If someone was raised in communist Europe or the communist world and is extremely opposed to communism, would they be right to call the support of communism hate speech, as would be the case for those who support fascism? Would a supporter of the Chinese government have the ability to call those who criticise the CCP hate speech? (Especially the Chinese propaganda which states that any criticism of the CCP is criticism of the Chinese people as a whole). On the side of the coin, would praising the CCP be hate speech, due to their genocide? I would argue that praising the CCP is akin to praising the Nazis given that they're both genocidal, hateful regimes. But I'm not the arbiter here, so who is? Who gets to determine that? Who is the arbiter? Is it hate speech to say that "I want to ban all women from XYZ profession"? Is it hate speech to say that "I want to ban all men from XYZ profession"? Is it hate speech to burn an Australian flag? To burn an Israeli flag? To burn a Palestinian flag? An Aboriginal/TS Islander flag? A Chinese flag? A German flag? A NAZI flag? Who gets to decide that? Who is the arbiter? Do the LGBTQIA rights activists have the right to speak out against Christianity/Islam if they believe either religion is detrimental to their cause? Do Christians/Muslims have the right to speak out against the LGBTQIA community if they believe their activism goes against their beliefs? And where do you draw the thin,

arbitrary line between opposing a cause and hate speech? Is it hate speech to suggest that the nuking of Hiroshima was justified? What if I were to suggest that it was a necessary evil? Is it hate speech to suggest that the starving of civilians in Dresden in WWII was justified? And where is the line between justified and necessary evil?

2. I don't believe that silencing hate speech is the way to go. If you try to silence hate speech, all it does is push it deeper underground and lets it infest its way through underground channels festering deeper and deeper into the sewer of hatred, where as if it's in the open, it can be easily identified and spoken against. Further, if hate speech is out in the open, it makes it easier to identify those who pose a potential threat
3. Ethnic tensions-Australia is a multicultural and multiethnic society. This is excellent and I am glad that the government actively promotes multiculturalism. Whilst my parents and I had the fortune of being born in Australia, all four of my grand parents were born in Greece, and (the three that were alive in my lifetime) benefited greatly from this. All three of my grand parents who were alive in my lifetime benefited from the excellent multicultural services provided by this state. Long gone are the days where people would scream "Go home you Wogs" on a systematic level. It's a good thing. However, the downside to that is ethnic tensions from back home. Many of my people, the Greeks, for example, take umbrage to the Turkish people due to incidents such as the Greek genocide. Many people in, say China, take umbrage to Japanese people due to incidents such as the Rape of Nanking. This is further the case where Chinese people in China are taught to hate the Japanese due to propagandistic scapegoating? What about ethnic tensions between Croatians and Serbians? What about the ethnic tension between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people? And that's before we even delve into the ethnic tensions between Jews and Palestinian supporters. Most Australians don't subscribe to these, but for those who do suppressing these ethnic tensions won't solve them. It'll push them deeper underground where they can fester
4. Fiction/Entertainment- Would it be considered hate speech if I were to fly a NAZI flag if I am making a documentary about WWII? If I were to portray Hitler in a documentary or a TV show (Hogans Heroes comes to mind) would that be hate speech? Such actions would require me to dress like a NAZI and fly NAZI flags.

I believe that hate speech is, in theory, a good idea. Australia CORRECTLY prides itself as a society where people from ever creed, race, sexual orientation, etc. can all live and cooperate with each other in peace. Australia is correct and justified to be proud of that. And not only is hate speech a threat to that social cohesion, but it's just a generally awful thing in every regard. However, I believe that such proposed legislation will open a Pandora's Box. Not only will it raise all the issues that I have stated, but as someone who is a total, utter and complete imbecile, I can imagine that there would be entire Pandora's boxes of consequences that I am far, far too stupid to foresee

Thank You and Regards,  
Steven Broussos