

To whom it may concern,

As I spend many hours on my masters' studies in neonatal intensive care nursing trying to ensure we have a better care and community for families, I am genuinely disappointed that I need to take time from those to address this legislation. I ride with several groups, and some have identifiable patches. I am a proud biker and am respected by most and respect most in my biking community. I wish to submit my concerns, most particularly that I consider this legislation a civil rights violation.

Firstly, I consider the language presented by Tasmania Police as being negatively persuasive and inaccurate, illustrated by their reference to the Rebels national meeting. These bikers came to our gorgeous state to celebrate 20 years of the club in Tasmania. Any anniversary should be enjoyed, and I would argue that the small percentage of individual offences reported is substantially less than the results of many groups or events that I have witnessed over years, both professionally and personally. Throughout their time here in Tasmania they were respectful to our community, supplemented our tourist economy and as far as I can see there was only one incident at a private party. After years in the ER, I wish I could say that about most pubs/clubs on a Saturday night, or many private parties.

I ride with several different groups, some wear patches on their vests or jackets, some don't, and I must ask at what point potential police interference with any bikers who are riding safely and are not identified as being in breach of an offence is mitigated by common sense. In fact, I would argue that this would even apply to a rider that has been convicted but completed their sentence and parole period. I wear several symbols on my jacket, I like to protect my face from the wind and bugs and I love skulls. Unfortunately, these appear to be the conditions of being delayed on a ride, particularly if alone, which is a situation where I would feel threatened if it not in a fully public and populated place, and I would not stop until I were in such a place. In addition to legitimate incidents, we have also witnessed the unsubstantiated 'stops' and wasted time of many officers on television, the internet and social media, and I find it disturbing. It is also of concern to me is that much of our legislation is reliant on that created in other states and then reconsidered. Since introduction there have been

concessions made for unreasonable conditions and legislative changes to reflect these, not least of all the revision of the Queensland VLAD laws in November 2016.

You imply that patches are threatening, again a premise I do not agree with. Removing my focus from the motorcycling community and referring to history and nature, not all insignia or all that is identifiable is deleterious, it simply provides information and without rhetoric there isn't a negative expectation. A hijab is a head scarf that women use to show respect, yet many people only see terrorism because they only see a stream of sensationalism in the news, and I would like to feel comfortable that I can socialise with my dear Muslim friend without rebuke; our LBGTIQ community use a rainbow flag to show their pride, yet many simply see "the gays" and I would like to support my family and friends at any time without censure; the swastika predates all that is negative, yet seen in a modern light, is considered so due to the hatred and horrific treatment of one group of people, and to this day represents the same neo-Nazi, 'white pride' beliefs that are repugnant to those that enjoy a varied and free society.

I am fond of identifiers, because in society as in nature I appreciate the information, much like when I see a red-back spider or an ambulance. I respect and appreciate them both, but it's just common sense to know what you are seeing and how you should respond. Identifiers cannot and should not be seen as negative and what appears intimidating to one isn't to another. This legislation is simply the beginning and with the wrong people in power, this could easily expand an already wide spread issue removing rights and dignity from so many, such as we witness with our indigenous people, and various social or religious groups. This type of legislation, irrespective of the recipient, individual or group, really does taste a little like fascism. A crime is a crime, the current legislation should be enough for appropriate management and be applied without discrimination to ALL people who commit a crime. I wholly reject this legislation and how it does not provide any assurances of increased safety or proposed crime prevention outcomes, and could potentially negatively affect my family, lifestyle, freinds and my community.

Sincerely,

Leonie Crosse