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NEW POLL SHOWS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR FREE SPEECH

New Galaxy Research polling commissioned by the Institute of Public Affairs has found that 64 per cent of Australians oppose a newspaper cartoonist being investigated by the Australian Human Rights Commission, and 45 per cent of Australians support change to the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to “offend” or “insult”

Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs, John Roskam said “Two thirds of Australians know what is happening is wrong. It is outrageous in a free country that any citizen should be forced to justify their political opinion to the government.”

“This proves there is widespread public support for restoring freedom of speech and changing Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act.”

“Labor and the Greens claim that freedom of speech is ‘not a mainstream issue’ is just wrong. The public understands the Government should not censor Bill Leak’s cartoon.”

The legal philosopher C Edwin Baker's points out in his book *Human Liberty and Freedom of Speech*, "As an interested party, the government should be least trusted in making those determinations regarding political speech."

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