

Who	What they said about section 18C	Source
The Hon. Tony Abbott	"Section 18C... is clearly a bad law. Our debates should be polite but they should never be guaranteed not to offend... with hindsight, I should have persisted with a simpler amendment along the lines of senator Bob Day's later private member's bill."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/tony-abbott-im-not-blind-to-the-flaws-that-ended-my-leadership/news-story/37b1b286c495ee5a74e74fff79104eb7?sv=2f1a9d26d3f6f1627e3cdc188b039e2c
Wesley Aird	"Throwing his support behind the push to scrap section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, Mr Aird said yesterday the amendments proposed by Attorney-General George Brandis were needed to bring the act into alignment with the "expectations of mainstream Australian society". "	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/act-failing-to-stop-blackonblack-racism-says-wesley-aird/story-fn59niix-1226868211673
Don Aitkin	"18c is a big stick, since a complainant has only to say that he or she feels 'offended' or 'insulted', and the game is on... In my view 18c has led to a self-imposed restriction of useful comment in many areas of our public life, and that has led to an impoverishment of democratic discussion – at least in print."	http://donaitkin.com/free-speech-and-section-18c/
Piers Akerman	"The sort of people who want political correctness and self-censorship resort in line with the current section 18C... which is patently a block on free speech."	http://blogs.news.com.au/dailytelegaph/piersakerman/index.php/dailytelegraph/comments/when_push_comes_to_shovel/
Janet Albrechtsen	"These laws must be abolished."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/the-real-injury-is-to-free-speech/story-e6frg7bo-1226176630195
Gay Alcorn	"Some people (including me) who disagree with Bolt's views on most things nonetheless believe that section 18C... is too broad in a democracy where robust debate means that even the most unpalatable opinions should be contested, not outlawed."	http://www.smh.com.au/comment/unch-with-the-obsessive-andrew-bolt-20140501-zr2ab.html
Jim Allan	"All of s18C of the Racial Discrimination Act needs to go..."	http://www.spectator.co.uk/australia/8358221/can-we-dump-s18c-now/
Australian Christian Lobby	"Attempting to prevent offense or insult can only quash free speech. The force of the law should not be used to stop people being offensive or insulting."	http://www.acl.org.au/2014/04/acl-submission-on-the-racial-discrimination-act-amendments/
Senator Chris Back	Senator Back also spoke in favour of the proposal [to reform section 18C] and described the act in its current form as a "grotesque limitation on political discourse"	http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/rebellion-over-race-hate-laws-with-half-a-dozen-turnbull-government-mps-set-to-cross-the-floor-20151014-gk9ixh.html

Senator Cory Bernardi	"I'm absolutely committed to freedom of speech in this country and if Bob Day wants my support he's got it".	http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/senators-may-defy-tony-abbott-on-hate-laws-20140812-3dl1p.html
Andrew Bolt	"...the argument is not between those who want more free speech and those who want less racism. It is between those who trust Australians and those who don't. Those who think we are basically decent and can be trusted with free speech and those who think we're too racist for such freedom."	http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/howard_on_free_speech_trust_australians/
Alan Borovoy	"You can't say we are going to take out 'offended' (from section 18C) but keep 'humiliated' ... You've got to say this kind of emotional lawmaking is not law — it's phony law, it's ersatz law, it's pseudo law."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/one-voice-on-free-speech/story-e6frg6z6-1226878150991
Michael Brull	"The case being tried against Andrew Bolt, in my opinion, is wrong. Not because I think what he said was right, decent, or defensible. It is because he should be allowed the right to express his opinions, however odious they may seem to others."	http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-03-30/brull/45746
Senator Joe Bullock	Indicated support for free speech and opposition to laws restricting offensive speech in his maiden address to parliament: "To be tolerant of your views I do not need to pretend that you are just as right as I am but rather to accept that you have a perfect right to hold a view I believe to be wrong, even if I find your view offensive."	https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/wa/a/24823764/bullock-backs-racial-discrimination-changes/
Julian Burnside	"The mere fact that you insult or offend someone probably should not, of itself, give rise to legal liability."	http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/03/29/human-rights-lawyer-says-18c-went-too-far
Senator Matt Canavan	Senator McGrath's Queensland Nationals colleague in the Senate, Matt Canavan, confirmed to Fairfax Media on Monday that he would be crossing the floor in favour of the Day amendment, in the unlikely event it would come to a vote.	http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/malcolm-turnbull-urged-to-back-partial-repeal-of-racial-discrimination-act-as-senate-stoush-looms-20151011-gk6jx9.html
Nick Cater	"[Critics of efforts to reform section 18C] underestimate the chilling effect the act's provisions have on those who hold the freedom of expression as a non-negotiable element of a liberal society."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/abbott-must-fix-problems-in-race-act/story-fnhulhjj-1226857340313?sv=6df632b26e3f2f624cdf40694e477977
Hal GP Colebatch	"Free societies don't make 'insult' and 'giving offence' a crime."	http://www.spectator.co.uk/2015/10/turnbull-sticks-with-offend-and-insult/

Peter Corney	"The way the current law is framed makes critique and open discussion very vulnerable to legal challenge and so limits freedom of speech."	http://www.ethos.org.au/Online-Articles/Engage-Mail/may-i-speak-freely-proposed-repeal-section18c-commonwealth-
<i>Courier Mail</i>	"The reality is that if one person is not free to speak freely then none of us are."	http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-coalition-governments-antidiscrimination-act-changes-strike-the-right-balance-for-freedom/story-fnihsr9v-1226865795547
Rosalind Croucher	"While recognising the need for racial vilification laws, the ALRC has concluded that section 18C may be too broad because it can capture conduct that "offends" people on the basis of their race. "Offence" may be too low a threshold.	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/offence-under-section-18c-is-a-provision-too-broad/news-story/6a785a0514241fc047498e003b7f1d3f
Narelle Davis	"Not forgetting the widows and mothers who lost their sons and husbands and carried on through depressions and hard times with very few comforts. What a betrayal of their sacrifice and suffering for our nation's freedom not to amend 18C."	http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2480937/unchanged-law-betrays-freedom/?cs=14
Senator Bob Day	"...I am indeed sympathetic to the Government's proposal to wind back Section 18C of the Act as I am not persuaded by the arguments of those who believe that offensive or insulting speech should be outlawed. I strongly believe that freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of association are the foundations of democracy."	http://freedomwatch.ipa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Bob-Day-letter-to-Mark-Dreyfus.pdf
Alan Dershowitz	"By turning those who express racist ideas into criminals, we give their bigoted voice a megaphone. Racists want the government to censor them so they can claim the mantle of free expression. The racist expression escalates from a one-day story to a multi-day story, with the censorship receiving far more attention than the statement itself."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/bans-on-bigotry-backfire/story-e6frgd0x-1226871314008

Anthony Dillon	<p>"Political correctness, with regard to people who identify as Aboriginal Australians, has reached the ridiculous stage where one can be accused of being racist simply by questioning the motives of some people who identify as being Aboriginal.</p> <p>Or there is the obvious elephant in the room. Why is it that someone with multiple ancestries chooses to build their identity around being Aboriginal, when having only one of your 16 great-great-grandparents being Aboriginal qualifies you to claim being Aboriginal? People are free to identify how they wish, but they should not be surprised when they are questioned about it."</p>	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/claims-of-racism-more-damaging-than-the-real-thing/story-e6frg6zo-1226865662773
Andrew Dodd	<p>"[The Bolt decision] is a slap in the face for free expression. It limits the kinds of things we can discuss in public and it suggests there are lots of taboo areas where only the meekest forms of reporting would be legally acceptable. "</p>	http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-28/dodd--/3026182
Senator Sean Edwards	<p>"We can't escape the fact Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act continues to unreasonably suppress completely reasonable speech."</p>	http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/opinion/sean-edwards-society-without-free-press-simply-counter-democratic/story-fni6unxq-1227192511853
Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Answering questions at the National Press Club: "I think that the appropriate balance that could be struck in relation to 18C would be to insert an objective ordinary person test into 18C..."</p>	http://www.canberraiaq.com.au/downloads/2015-10-21-1.pdf
Alex Fitton	<p>"2014 Australia is finally ready for a previously idealised solution: remove Section 18(C). It only takes common sense to realise that it won't be long before the racists and racist institutions end their charade of equality and tolerance, thus exposing their ugly heads and even uglier closed-mindedness."</p>	http://mondroit.com.au/remove-18c-and-let-the-racists-rot/
Ross Fitzgerald	<p>"Moreover, even though advocates of anti-racial discrimination and other similar legislation are almost always well intentioned, as far as freedom of speech and free expression are concerned, the consequences of such legislative prohibitions are disastrous to liberal democracy. That is why I oppose such legislation."</p>	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/stop-hiding-behind-legislation-and-allow-speech-to-flow-freely/story-e6frg7eo-1226994090454
David Flint	<p>"There can be no doubt that, absent approval of the current very modest private senators' bill to amend 18C, an antipodean <i>Charlie Hebdo</i> would be doomed."</p>	http://www.spectator.co.uk/australia/australia-features/9422442/could-an-aussie-hebdo-survive/

John Furedy	"There has been what I call a velvet totalitarianism creeping in. I call it that because the punishments are less severe but people still try to censor themselves and each other... The only protection against stupid speech is better speech."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/survivor-wary-of-velvet-totalitarianism/story-fn59niix-1226871541737
Michael Gawenda	"Section 18C ought to be repealed. Feeling insulted or offended or humiliated or even intimidated should not be a basis on which a court should be able to silence anyone."	http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2014/3/5/politics/hate-not-dirty-word
Andrew Glover	"We may think Section 18C is a shield to protect the vulnerable against vile and damaging forms of hate speech. But, in the hands of some, a shield is also a weapon. By not allowing legitimate, and – yes, arguably ‘racist’ – critiques of entrenched white privilege to be voiced, 18C actually gives the powerful yet another means of reprisal. Or worse still – it means that we might never hear the truths of an ongoing racist co-existence that we need to hear."	http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16525
Sue Gordon	"I think sometimes there is too much emotion in this topic and people need to just look at it calmly," "We are not a communist country, we have free speech and if we start picking things off to suppress individuals, well it gets worse it goes more underground".	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/give-people-right-to-free-speech-says-sue-gordon/story-fn9hm1pm-1226865873760
Samuel Gordon-Stewart	"Tony Abbott's decision last year to abandon proposed changes to the <i>Racial Discrimination Act</i> ... was a disgrace in my view, and an absolute betrayal of the mainly conservative voters who trusted him to ensure that freedom of speech, a cornerstone of any free society, was protected."	http://samuelgordonstewart.com/2015/01/on-freedom-of-speech-and-section-18c-of-the-racial-discrimination-act-if-its-broken-and-you-look-away-its-still-broken
Herald Sun	"Gagging people from fairly and legitimately held opinions is censorship. It is a basic denial of freedom of speech... The underlying problem with the ill-considered effects of Section 18C is that if someone says they have been offended or humiliated, who is to challenge them? That is not what freedom of speech and the right to fairly voice your opinions is about."	http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/your-right-to-speak-freely/story-fni0ffsx-1226851875830
Derryn Hinch	"... I still believe [s 18C] is a blight on this so-called democracy of ours, [and] I believe, if they really believe in this new mantra 'je suis Charlie', the PM and the Attorney-General should revive the campaign to change that law and flush out the hypocrites..."	http://www.humanheadline.com.au/hinch-says/a-clayton-s-freedom

Jonathan Holmes	"Justice Bromberg's interpretation of the Racial Discrimination Act, and his application of it to Bolt's columns, strikes me as profoundly disturbing."	http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-29/holmes-bolt-bromberg-and-a-profoundly-disturbing-judgment/3038156
The Hon. John Howard	Reported in <i>The Australian</i> : "In a keynote speech at Melbourne's Flemington Racecourse, Mr Howard will argue the changes [to s 18C] are in line with the classical liberal tradition... Australia is not a racist nation but rather one that respects and cherishes an open and tolerant society, which should therefore uphold freedom of speech, he will say.	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/john-howard-backs-race-act-changes/story-fn59niix-1226872820593
Paul Howes	"[An] Orwellian law that, probably, should not be there...I am concerned that people in some of the circles I mix, on my side of politics, increasingly seem to think that they should write, or invoke, or resurrect, laws that will shut Andrew Bolt up... A democracy is at the very least a free marketplace of ideas, and a free marketplace of arguments against those ideas. But it is never, never, a stifling or a suffocation of ideas"	http://www.heraldsun.com.au/archive/news/ruling-against-andrew-bolt-will-harm-healthy-debate-say-libertarians/story-fn7x8me2-1226149096809
Reginald Hunter	"These laws are tantamount to being so nebulous as to being able to bring anybody up on charges and to take their job and their livelihood just because your interpretation of offence [is different to someone else's]. The power of these laws is in its vagueness and its nebulousness, and that's the point of it... A lot of things have been presented as for our good, but the truth of the matter is that if you just leave people alone, they pretty much work things out themselves."	http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/reginald-d-hunter-opens-the-festival/5447710
Chaim Ingram	"If rabbis are prevented from speaking on certain moral issues because of the Act, then it would be good to change that Act."	http://www.jewishnews.net.au/nsw-rabbis-clash-with-leaders-over-18c/34641
John Izzard	"Senator Brandis, the pressure on you must be intense, and some of it, according to press reports, is coming from members of your own party. Rather than hear the voices of those who regard free speech with disdain, I urge you to look instead to Canada, where a similar and similarly unjust law has been recently overturned."	https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2014/06/open-letter-george-brandis/
Gary Johns	"Was Australia a darker place before the insertion of 18c in 1995? I do not think so."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/racehate-war-is-already-won/story-fn8v83qk-1226851809099

Christopher Johnson	"If changes are to be made to Section 18 of the Racial Discrimination Act I recommend that Section 18C (1)(a) should only be amended to at most only remove 'offend' and 'insult'."	http://scatteredroundtheworld.wordpress.com/2014/04/29/hey-mr-brandis-i-hope-you-read-this/
Sarah Joseph	"The prohibitions on speech which offends and insults, even on the basis of race, go too far. Feelings of offence and insult are not serious enough to justify restrictions on the human right to freedom of speech: there are no countervailing human rights to freedom from offence or freedom from insult. Feelings of offence and insult are not enough to equate with a right to be free from racial discrimination."	https://www.monash.edu/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/138495/section-18c-submission.pdf
Bernard Keane	"...inconsistency and inequity points to a crucial reason why the amendment of 18C should be supported: free speech in Australia is in a bad way."	http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/03/21/keane-on-race-discrimination-and-white-mens-privilege/
Paul Kelly	<p>"You might think this law is designed to prevent race hate and is restricted to this goal. But that's wrong. It makes behaviour unlawful in a racial context where it is likely to "offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate". This is an extraordinarily low threshold and subjective test.</p> <p>...such restrictions run far beyond what is required, for example, to protect Jewish, Aboriginal or Muslim communities from racial hatred."</p>	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/labor-wrong-on-freedom-wars/story-e6frg74x-1226445129128
David Kemp	"...when a Human Rights Commissioner tells us that without section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act the darker side of human nature will be unleashed, he obviously has no concept of the capacity of a free society to develop a moral order. Liberal thought, with the wisdom of our democratic history behind us, tells us that a good society is created not by pursuing the illiberal with tribunals, punishments and bans, but by the morality that grows out of the desire of people to be validated by the good opinions of others. It is this, not law that has made Australia one of the least racist societies in the world."	http://freedomwatch.ipa.org.au/exclusive-kemp-on-the-liberal-approach-to-government/
Chris Kenny	"The 18C amendments are necessary to ensure we see no more columns banned."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/a-free-and-vigorous-debate-would-be-the-best-avenue-for-bolts-detractors/story-fn8qlm5e-1226867968162
Michael Kroger	"I'm a very strong supporter of [the Abbott government's] changes."	http://freedomwatch.ipa.org.au/watch-michael-kroger-on-free-speech/

Mark Leibler	"It is a question of getting the balance right ... this is not black and white. It is not all right on the one side, and all wrong on the other side. My own view is that if all the government wants to remove the word 'offend', I think at the end of the day everyone could live with that."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/jewish-leader-eyes-middle-path-on-race-act-reform/story-fn59niix-1226884305264
Senator David Leyonhjelm	"My preference would be that 18C be completely repealed and not amended but this proposal by the government is a significant improvement on the existing situation."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/new-senators-back-pm-on-act-changes/story-fn59niix-1226865723472
Antony Loewenstein	"As an atheist Jew, I find it distinctly uncomfortable to defend the free speech rights of Holocaust deniers. I utterly oppose the inaccuracy, hatred and intolerance that goes with refuting the reality of Nazi crimes against Jews, gay people, Gypsies and many others. But a truly free society is one that tolerates and encourages strong exchanges of ideas. This includes the most abominable of them, such as those expressed by German born, Australian-citizen, Holocaust denying Frederick Tobin, a regular bogeyman wheeled out to justify laws against offensive thoughts."	http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/02/we-shouldnt-look-to-a-state-that-entrenches-racism-to-legislate-against-it?CMP=soc_568
Senator Ian Macdonald	"...West Australian senator Chris Back and Queensland Liberal National Party senator Ian Macdonald have told Fairfax Media they will vote in favour of a bill designed to water down the Racial Discrimination Act."	http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/abbott-government-senators-prepared-to-cross-floor-over-racial-discrimination-act-20150213-13cvvn.html
David Marr	"The present act has to be changed – a little. Hurt feelings should never attract the law as they do now under section 18C. Offence and insults are the everyday reality of free discourse."	http://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/opinion/topic/2014/04/05/david-marr-race-votes-and-free-speech/1396616400
Nick McCallum	"Agree with Nick Cater. Better to rely on natural community decency rather than regulate it. Govt should amend 18c."	https://twitter.com/NickMcCallum7/status/486451525879738368
Chris Merritt	"If there ever was a statute that has brought the law into disrepute, this is it... There is no place in Australian law for such a one-sided procedure. Nor is there any place for a provision that imposes penalties on journalists for what they do not write. It belongs in North Korea."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/race-acts-18c-brings-law-into-disrepute/story-e6frg9uf-1226847346919
Mon Droit / William Dawes	"From its first issue, Mon Droit has valued the plurality which comes from freedom of expression. Any legislation which threatens this is anathema to our values. s18C needs to go."	http://mondroit.com.au/issue-2-editorial-crying-over-spilled-almond-milk/

<p>Bill Muehlenberg</p>	<p>"The federal Racial Discrimination Act, like the Victorian Racial and Religious Vilification Act, may have been set up with the best of intentions. But both seem to increasingly be little more than clubs with which to clobber those who do not hold to acceptable views on controversial issues."</p>	<p>https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/bill-muehlenberg/2011/09/on-the-right-to-offend/</p>
<p>Brendan O'Neill</p>	<p>"Race Discrimination Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane says we have to keep 18C because racist speech can "damage our cohesion as a multicultural society". He defends the 2011 court ruling against journalist Andrew Bolt for using "inflammatory and provocative language" in his columns about fair-skinned Aborigines.</p> <p>This is a classic argument for censorship. The paternalistic notion that certain ideas must be hidden from view because they have the power to rattle society — or "damage social cohesion", as Soutphommasane prefers — has fuelled every act of censorship, from Torquemada silencing morality-corrupting heretics during the Spanish Inquisition to British censors banning Lady Chatterley's Lover on the basis that it could unleash dangerous sexual impulses and harm family life. Arguing prejudiced speech must be quashed to preserve social harmony may sound PC, but it's the bastard ideological offspring of the thirst for social control and fear of the unpredictable public that have motivated every censor."</p>	<p>http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/abolish-the-human-rights-commission-and-return-us-to-the-enlightenments-positive-values/story-fnhulnf5-1226903603929</p>
<p>Sev Ozdowski</p>	<p>"I am for free speech, even if sometimes it hurts."</p>	<p>http://www.sevzowski.com/2013-12-02-proposed-change-to-section-18c-of-the-racial-discrimination-act/</p>
<p>Senator James Paterson</p>	<p>"Freedom of speech and freedom of thought are inseparable. For as long as I am in this place, I will stand up for free speech."</p>	<p>Maiden speech to the Senate – 16 March 2016</p>
<p>Rita Panahi</p>	<p>"[O]ne of the more absurd laws ever passed by Parliament... A free and sophisticated society must allow citizens to offend and to be offended without contravening any law. If someone is not inciting violence or defaming... then why should their right to free speech be [curtailed]."</p> <p>"... [I]t has no place in an open society that values freedom of thought and expression."</p>	<p>http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/rita-panahi/abbott-must-deliver-on-free-speech/news-story/49395cb64d4c0bfc4ec3405007d42605</p>

Charlie Pearson	"Apparently, free speech is not a cornerstone of liberal democracy, but a tool used by wrong-thinking citizens to poison the minds of others... This attitude ignores the fact that free speech means the freedom to argue and point out the ample flaws in bigoted or racist worldviews."	http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/hate-speech-bigotry-is-never-better-left-unsaid/14868#.UzteWPlmN8F
David Penberthy	"The changes should be supported by people who believe in the importance of freedom of expression. I am less interested in how that freedom extends to journalists or broadcasters who are in the powerful position of having a way to make their voices heard, than how it affects the ability of you to make a point in a letter to the editor, a comment on a website, a call to talkback radio. Or for that matter in a group conversation at work with a bunch of colleagues."	http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/opinion/david-penberthy-we-should-be-free-to-discuss-the-very-things-that-might-offend/story-fni6unxq-1226868478669
Peter Phelps MLC	"What defenders of section 18C ignore is that social sanctions already exist to enforce culturally accepted standards of behaviour. A truly civil society has ways of self-regulating and condemning racist speech without resorting to the lawyers and the apparatchiks of the Human Rights Commission."	http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/Parlment/hanstrans.nsf/V3ByKey/LC20140506?open&refNavID=HA3_1
Kerryn Pholi	"I hereby demand freedom from protection from this thing we call 'racial vilification'. I do not wish to be protected from the opinions of others. I demand the right to hear the views that other people may wish to express about me. I want this because I do not see how forcing others to shield their true opinion is of any benefit to me. Rather, it infantilises me by suggesting that I cannot handle the ugliness of life. Silencing or concealing the ugliness also exposes me to unnecessary risk, since if all others were free to express their views openly, I could at least make more informed choices about whom to associate with and whom to avoid. I also believe that ugliness and nastiness should be freely expressed, because it is good for us."	http://www.spectator.co.uk/australia/australia-features/9192391/repeal-section-18c/
Justin Quill	"Those named in Andrew's article and their supporters would no doubt have been publicly critical of the article. They would have fought Andrew's free speech with a powerful weapon — their own free speech. And in my view, that would be the best result of all."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/legal-affairs/race-law-changes-would-have-seen-bolt-case-debated-outside-the-court/story-e6frg97x-1226866782478

Clyde Rathbone	"People are different, and pointing to these differences doesn't make one racist, it makes one observant. Differences we're too afraid to acknowledge can never be celebrated. And cultures we're too afraid to criticise continue to cause much harm. Relaxing the laws that bound our speech will invariably lead to offence, which in turn will lead to debate. Open conversation, rather than legal intervention, is our best hope for a lasting solution to racial discrimination."	http://www.smh.com.au/rugby-union/union-news/clyde-rathbone-why-free-speech-is-the-best-tool-to-tackle-racism-in-sport-20140328-zqnxl.html
Senator Linda Reynolds	"I believe the Australian community must rediscover a way to accept hearing things we do not personally believe in. I don't believe insulting or offending someone should give rise to legal liability and it is my personal view that these laws have overreached and require amendment."	http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/abbott-government-senators-prepared-to-cross-floor-over-racial-discrimination-act-20150213-13cvvn.html
Senator Scott Ryan	"I said at the start that I was a First Amendment type of person and I view the proposal put up by this the government and Senator Brandis in the exposure draft as a compromise because I accept that my views are not typical of all those in this place or indeed all those in this country in supporting a very strong and almost unlimited commitment to freedom of speech."	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usFRakmfXZU
Sukrit Sabhlok	"Voltaire is (incorrectly) credited with saying "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it". Free speech is fundamental in liberal democracies because it allows for vigorous debate and discussion on matters of importance that may be politically incorrect and repealing section 18C would contribute to that."	http://sukritsabhlok.weebly.com/home/august-04th-2014
Frank Salter	"Yet the Government's proposed amendments, announced on 25th March, though a significant improvement, represent a climb down from full repeal."	http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/ged/2014/03/section-18c-multiculturalism-power/
Jeremy Sammut	"The race-based scare campaign that is being waged against the repeal of Section 18C should not weigh heavily on the mind of the Abbott government. If the RDA withers, the 'fair go' culture that makes Australia a multiracial success will persist."	http://www.spectator.co.uk/australia/australia-features/9158951/well-still-be-a-melting-pot/

Gabriel Sassoon	<p>"The measure of a society's commitment to free speech is the extent to which it protects offensive, unpopular speech. Free speech is hard: it has any meaning only if it protects the most virulent and obnoxious of views.</p> <p>Disturbingly, it has become more and more clear that many Australians wish to protect only speech that we find innocuous... Free speech is a meaningless concept if it protects only inoffensive, popular views."</p>	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/no-respect-for-most-basic-right/story-e6frgd0x-1226868145287
Senator Zed Seselja	<p>"But we should not have the kind of discussion that has been stifled in the Bolt case being banned. It should not be. Yes, our feelings get hurt from time to time. We do not like it when it happens; I do not like it when it happens. But we cannot have a law to protect against every piece of offensive behaviour in our community."</p>	http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansards%2F7f9c768e-cf09-4d07-a8ab-7c7e2f355ade%2F0045%22
Michael Sexton	<p>"There is room for argument as to whether the prohibition on intimidation should be retained, although this could normally be dealt with by the ordinary provisions of the criminal law.</p> <p>The notions of offence, insult and humiliation, however, involve hurt to feelings. This is always unattractive for the subject of the verbal attack but these shock tactics have always been legitimate tools of debate on questions of politics and public interest."</p>	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/we-all-have-a-right-to-free-speech-and-it-should-be-no-crime-to-offend/story-e6frgd0x-1226842992179
Paul Sheehan	<p>"I would remove the entire act..."</p>	<p>Personal correspondence</p>
Tory Shepherd	<p>"The law should be changed..."</p>	http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/opinion/australian-left-too-busy-saying-je-suis-charlie-to-realise-they-arent-charlie/story-fni6unxg-1227183682249?sv=e4ff07e5c678848932c4e1d09e226e49
Margaret Simons	<p>"Civil libertarians have for a long while argued that the Racial Discrimination Act is too broadly worded. I agree."</p>	http://www.crikey.com.au/2011/09/29/bolt-decision-irresponsible-journalism-illegal-think-again/
Senator Dean Smith	<p>"I'm sure I speak for many, many, many West Australians who believe that racism is not tolerated in our country - that racism should be combatted - but many will argue that part of our democratic evolution is for government and laws to step back so that communities can step up to the challenge."</p>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQ83YIlyHMg

Jim Spigelman	"The freedom to offend is an integral component of freedom of speech. There is no right not to be offended. I am not aware of any international human rights instrument, or national anti-discrimination statute in another liberal democracy, that extends to conduct which is merely offensive. I have not conducted a detailed review of the international position in this respect. However, so far as I have been able to determine, we would be pretty much on our own in declaring conduct which does no more than offend, to be unlawful."	https://www.humanrights.gov.au/news/speeches/human-rights-day-oration-delivered-honourable-james-spigelman-ac-gc
Lenore Taylor	"I personally think that section 18C might be drawn slightly too broadly but there has to be some kind of recourse to racial vilification. I don't want to live in a society where racial vilification is OK."	http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/feb/16/qa-recap-token-right-wing-madman-slams-long-term-detention-of-asylum-seekers
<i>The Age</i>	"Race vilification laws were never meant to impinge on robust debate or ban obnoxious and ill-informed voices from the conversation. The line is fine, the judgments difficult, but our democracy can meet the challenge. The danger in the present framework is that in trying to protect tolerance and freedom, the legislation diminishes both."	http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/editorial/free-speech-has-to-include-freedom-to-offend-20120807-23s8j.html
<i>The Australian</i>	"Australia has no reason to be complacent about freedom of speech. Hundreds of prohibitions govern the things we are not allowed to know. And we rank 28th out of 180 on the World Press Freedom Index. The further erosion of freedom of speech is too high a price to pay for legislation erroneously intended to stifle the rougher edges of our robust debate. Trying to legislate for good manners or to prevent hurt invariably backfires. The government is right to abolish Section 18C of the RDA."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/editorials/smothering-free-exchange-of-ideas-a-dangerous-path/story-e6frg71x-1226868012921
<i>The Saturday Age</i>	"This newspaper has long argued that the Racial Discrimination Act should be amended to rebalance it more towards free speech. Specifically, we believe Section 18C should be abolished."	http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-editorial/freedom-of-speech-needs-liberating-20131220-2zqp7.html
Gillian Triggs	"Of course it is possible to tweak it, to amend it, to take language out and to put new language in that strengthens it - all of that we of course fully support as a matter of law."	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/tim-wilson-facing-clash-with-human-rights-commission-colleagues-over-andrew-bolt-race-provisions/story-fn59niix-1226785787995

<p>The Hon. Malcom Turnbull</p>	<p>MT "... There was a very general consensus that – well, a broad consensus, among lots of interested groups and stakeholders, that the words “insult” and “offend” could be removed, leaving the words “humiliate” and “intimidate”.</p> <p>ANDREW BOLT: "Did you support that?"</p> <p>...</p> <p>MALCOLM TURNBULL: "I was very comfortable about that. I didn't think that would have any sort of negative impact."</p>	<p>http://www.malcolmturnbull.com.au/media/transcript-bolt-report-the-abc-climate-change-and-racial-discrimination-act</p>
<p>Chris Uhlmann</p>	<p>"It's an insidious, creeping assault on free speech. Unfortunately, the people doing the job of advocating the rollback are doing such a shocking job, it's unlikely to happen."</p>	<p>http://www.smh.com.au/national/chris-uhlmann-and-gai-brodtmann-a-very-canberra-couple-20140620-3ajmd.html</p>
<p>Daniel Ward</p>	<p>"For if there is one political party whose members should welcome the freer debate that will come from repeal of section 18C, it is the Australian Greens."</p> <p>"...the debate needs to be unshackled from the politically correct strictures of the Racial Discrimination Act. That is what Attorney-General George Brandis proposes to do."</p>	<p>http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/bolt-law-repeal-is-good-policy/story-e6frgd0x-1226758515275#sthash.JbbQvxkP.dpuf</p>
<p>Tim Wilson</p>	<p>"EMMA ALBERICI: OK. Well this is the Attorney-General's view. He wants to abolish Section 18C of the [Racial Discrimination Act] ...</p> <p>TIM WILSON: Well he's actually said he's going to - looking to change it.</p> <p>EMMA ALBERICI: Changing it.</p> <p>TIM WILSON: I want full repeal."</p>	<p>http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2013/s3946783.htm</p>
<p>Keith Windschuttle</p>	<p>"The repeal of Section 18C would be a small but helpful gesture in turning back this tide of intolerance and restoring some of the principles of free expression that Australian society once regarded as its cultural bedrock."</p>	<p>http://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2014/06/section-18c-tide-intolerance/</p>
<p>John Zerilli</p>	<p>"It may be that Section 18C goes too far. There are certainly problems with the formulation of Section 18D (of a largely technical kind)."</p>	<p>http://theconversation.com/free-speech-what-it-is-and-what-it-isnt-23506</p>
<p>Spencer Zifcak</p>	<p>"What Bolt wrote was absolutely disgraceful and offensive," said Liberty Victoria president Spencer Zifcak. "But I think we ought to be sufficiently concerned to advance freedom of expression to allow for that kind of speech to occur."</p>	<p>http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/judges-discrimination-ruling-creates-unusual-bedfellows-20111001-1l2zm.html</p>