



22 February 2016

The Hon. Victor Dominello, MP
Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Also sent via email: office@dominello.minister.nsw.gov.au

Victor

Dear Minister Dominello

Review of current training regime for NSW real estate agents

I am advised by the President of the Real Estate Institute of NSW (the Institute), Mr John Cunningham, that your ministry is overseeing a review of the Institute's current training regime for real estate agents in NSW.

I would like to submit that your review consider the introduction of mandatory training about federal anti-discrimination law and cultural diversity for new and existing agents. The Institute has indicated it supports this suggestion and believes it would strengthen the professionalism of its members.

Recently published research about ethnic discrimination in the Sydney housing market (see, for example, 'A white face can be a big help in a discriminatory housing market, *The Conversation*, 1 February 2016) indicated that those of minority ethnic background received less favourable treatment than those of Anglo background from real estate agents. Under the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth), it is unlawful to treat someone unfairly because of their race, including with respect to land, housing and accommodation. Similar protections exist under the *NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

I welcome your ministry giving this matter further consideration and am confident it would be well-received by the NSW real estate industry. I know from working with you in your previous ministerial office your undoubted personal commitment to multiculturalism and equal opportunity.

Yours sincerely

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Race Discrimination Commissioner

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