

23/02/2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to contest the new ALRC recommendation, which would enforce Christian schools to allow the teaching and/or holding of views contrary to the moral belief of the Christian community. Clearly, this would not work! In teaching a code of conduct to others, the teachers, and other staff, must believe and live out the same belief, otherwise their example would be contradictory. That is, if the Christian school had to allow the promotion of LGBTQ or other groups which taught and/or practiced opposite philosophies to its ethos.

The **Guardian** reported (14/02/2023):

“In response to a question about the controversy on Tuesday the Prime Minister told Labor’s caucus that “we made our position clear a long time ago that faith-based schools can employ people of their own faith”.”

Also:

“Before the election Labor committed to... “protect teachers from discrimination at work, while maintaining the right of religious schools to preference people of their faith in the selection of staff”.”

This sounds encouraging, but will this promise be kept? It should, as God’s moral Law commands truthfulness from each person:

*“Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.”
[Leviticus 19:11]*

Realistically, most would choose truthfulness, when it benefits themselves but unfortunately, too often governments promise one thing, and then do another.

Another group who seeking to hinder truth, and who is rather aiming to promote unbiblical practices is the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC). They have recently produced a Consultation Paper with various suggestions for altering “the way Commonwealth anti-discrimination law applies to religious schools and other educational institutions.”

[<https://www.alrc.gov.au/news/alrc-religious-educational-institutions-inquiry-consultation-paper-released/>].

Four of the new proposals of the ALRC, seek to “make discrimination against students...unlawful” and to “protect teachers and other school staff from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or

relationship status, or pregnancy in schools and other religious educational institutions, by **“removing exceptions currently available under federal law”**. However, this WILL NOT “allow religious schools to maintain their religious character by permitting them to give preference to prospective staff on religious grounds” (as the paper cleverly states), because “the teaching, observance, or practice of religion is a part of their role and {will most likely} be ‘discriminatory’ on other grounds)”.

The Opposition has rightly rejected this ALRC proposal. The Government should also do the same, realizing the faith-based discrimination that is being suggested, and do what is upright and just.

People of a Christian faith should be free to choose a Christian school, for their children’s education. My parents fully believed in getting Christian education for their four children. They willingly worked hard and sacrificed other things, to finance what they believed was very worthwhile. All of my formal education, from kindergarten (in N.S.W), to primary and high school (in W.A), took place in Christian schools. My teachers truly practiced what they taught, and hence set an integral, consistent example for myself and the other students.

Flourishing Christian schools are very beneficial to our society. Christian education: when Biblical morals are taught and practiced, will promote true character and quality learning, often resulting in children who possess good work ethics, better character, a reduction of crime rates and cause less government expense.