

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Anti Discrimination Law](#)
Subject: Religious Freedom
Date: Thursday, 23 February 2023 9:11:43 PM

Dear Australian Law Reform Commission,

Four propositions in the consultation paper into Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws.

Propositions A and B state that religious educational institutions should not be allowed to discriminate against students or staff on the grounds of sexuality, yet many religions teach abstinence until marriage. Religious schools should have the right to employ staff who live out their faith, including those hold these same values.

Secondly, I was encouraged by point 3 of Proposition B, stating, “Religious educational institutions should be able to require staff involved in the teaching of religious doctrine or belief to teach religious doctrine or belief on sex or sexuality as set out by that institution and in accordance with their duty of care to students and staff, and requirements of the curriculum.”

In contrast, proposition D point 3 states, “Respect for an educational institution’s ethos and codes of conduct or behaviour should not require employees to hide their own sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or relationship status, or pregnancy in connection with work or in private life, or to refrain from supporting another person with these attributes.” Hence negating Proposition B when teachers are free to live completely and openly opposed to these teachings. Please remove point 3 from Proposition D.

Religious schools in Australia are valued by a wide range of families. In particular, the basic freedom of religious schools to operate according to their ethos must continue unfettered by discrimination legislation. Religion expression is one of the characteristics of a democratic society. Seeking to control every school to be the same. Rather than allowing a range of schools where students and parents have a choice of where they attend.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Nat Easton

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