

MEDIA RELEASE

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FamilyVoice Australia Welcomes Parliamentary Committee Recommendations

The two committees of the Australian Federal Parliament examining proposed legislation on religious discrimination bill were handed down on Friday 4 February.

Both committees recommended that the Bills introduced in November 2021 be passed by the Parliament, with some minor amendments.

The Inquiry Committees were the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (PJCHR) and the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee before which FamilyVoice Australia appeared to give evidence.

Both committees had extensive representatives from pro- and anti-religious discrimination advocates.

While each report mentions a number of objections to the legislative package, it is significant that these cross-party committees both end up by recommending the enactment of the laws in their current form.

"FamilyVoice views this is an encouraging sign that the legislation might find sufficient support to pass the Parliament before an election is called this year but in truth this may be highly unlikely given the number of sitting days," said Greg Bondar, FamilyVoice Australia spokesman.

Whilst there were "additional comments" made by ALP members of both Committees, Labor did not formally dissent from the majority recommendations.

As expected, there was a formal dissent from the Greens Senator Janet Rice to both reports, joined in the Senate Committee by fellow Green Senator Lidia Thorpe.

Further details:

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