

Religious Discrimination Bill and related bill inquiry

On 26 November 2021, pursuant to section 7(c) of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011, the Attorney-General referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights the following matters for inquiry and report by 4 February 2022:

- The [Religious Discrimination Bill 2021](#) ('the bill');
- The [Religious Discrimination \(Consequential Amendments\) Bill 2021](#);
- The [Human Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](#) (together referred to as 'the religious discrimination legislative package').

Respondents should consider the full text of the religious discrimination legislative package (including explanatory memoranda) when considering their response.

Please note, contact details of respondents will be collected for the purpose of conducting this survey, but will not be published, shared with anybody else or used for any other purpose.

The committee will consider the results of this process in its inquiry into the religious discrimination legislative package.

1. Do you believe there should be legislation to protect people from religious discrimination in certain areas of public life on the grounds of their religious belief or activity? This will include protecting people who don't hold a religious belief as well.

Yes

No

Why/Why not?

This should not be necessary but because Australia has drifted so far from its Christian Heritage it now is needed to keep a civil society and stop Christians being discriminated against.

2. We currently have a Sex Discrimination Act, Age Discrimination Act and Racial Discrimination Act, do you believe it is important to also have a Religious Discrimination Act as well?

Yes

No

Why/Why not

Again, this should not be necessary but given how far we have moved from Christian principles it is now sadly needed to protect Christians.

3. Do you support the religious discrimination legislative package that is currently before the Parliament?

- Yes
- No

Why/Why not?

Even though it does not do all of what is necessary to protect Christians it does give some protection which is better than nothing.

4. Do you believe that parents should be able to choose to send their children to a school of their choice which aligns with their religious values?

- Yes
- No

Why/Why not?

This is a fundamental right of all parents and it boggles the mind to think that question can even be asked or that anyone would think that it is not a right of parents.

5. Do you consider that religious schools should be able to require all students to practice the religion affiliated with that school, if this requirement is necessary to avoid injury to the religious susceptibilities of people of that religion?

- Yes
- No

Why/Why not?

Religious schools and Christian schools in particular should be able to require all students to practice the religion affiliated with that school as that is the reason that the school exists. Otherwise why pay for something you want and then not get it.

6. Do you believe religious schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, accommodation providers and disability service providers should be able to preference the hiring of staff of the same religious belief, as long as this is in accordance with a publicly available written policy?

- Yes
- No

Why/Why not?

This will ensure that these Christian organisations are able to fulfil their mission, which is to promote Christian principles without having problems with staff that do not hold those principles.

7. Do you consider that religious charities (not covered by question 6) should be able to preference persons who share their religious beliefs when making employment decisions or offering services?

- Yes
- No

Why/Why not?

All Christian charities should be able to preference persons who share the Christian beliefs when making employment decisions or offering services so that the Christian mission and ethos is able to be maintained and provided as the Christian founders will have wanted.

8. Do you believe religious people would be comfortable to share their beliefs in public life without the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021?

- Yes
- No

Why/Why not?

Sadly, because our society has moved so far from Christian principles many Christians would not be comfortable to share their beliefs in public life without the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 because of fear of being persecuted for their faith and could lose their job or not be promoted in a job.

9. Do you think it should be lawful for a person to be able to make a statement of belief so long as it is made in good faith and is not malicious, threatening, intimidating, or harassing and does not vilify a person or group or advocate the commission of a serious offence?

- Yes
- No

Why/Why not?

Yes, Christians should be able to make a statement of belief made in good faith at any time. In particular they should be able to say at any time what the Bible says as it is the word of God. That is the whole basis of Christianity.

10. Should the committee choose to publish an anonymised representative sample of responses, do you agree to all or parts of your response being published?

- Yes
- No