

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Morrison 'Betrays' Christian Voters**

The recent public announcement by the Prime Minister denouncing the employment choices of the suburban Brisbane school Citipointe Christian College, highlights the hypocrisy of this government on its Religious Discrimination Bill (RDB) currently before parliament awaiting its release.

Australia is increasingly a hostile place for people of faith. Christians and other religious believers are being fired from their jobs, stripped of their qualifications, silenced with litigation, and excluded from the public square.

So where is the outrage?

Christians are now experiencing 'buyers remorse' having been promised a RDB that would give some protection for faith-based schools. Voters put their faith in the Prime Minister based on his promise to deliver on religious freedom.

Clause 11 of the RDB allows religious schools to preferentially hire staff who share the religious beliefs of the school. Fairly narrow protection is given against State or Territory laws that undermine this principle. But this protection has nothing to do with sexuality and gender, it allows a school to preserve its religious character in its staff.

It is designed to ensure that an Orthodox Jewish school can prioritise hire of Orthodox Jewish teachers and not Christians. Clause 11 does not affect laws protecting sexuality and gender identity – these are protected by the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth) and remain unchanged by the Bill.

"To remove and or undermine Clause 11, which is part of the engine room of the RDB, would be betrayal equivalent to 30 pieces of silver," said Greg Bondar.

John Howard, in a FamilyVoice webinar on February 23 last year said that "a faith-based school be able to teach the ethos of the school. That's why people send their children to Jewish schools, Anglican schools or Catholic schools."

"If the government thinks there are more votes in supporting the small and minority LGBTIQ+ community then it needs to read the Labor Party commissioned internal report on the 2019 election loss, focussing on the response of religious voters, which concluded that Labor as a whole did not project an image that was appealing to devout Christians," said Greg Bondar.

"Alienating the Christian vote to appease the Green-Left vote is a bizarre election strategy. If Scott Morrison continues to alienate Christian voters he will end up with the same result as Bill Shorten at the 2019 election", added Greg Bondar.

Further details:

**Greg Bondar - 0411 854 115**