

17/11/18

Blair Courtney-O'Connor

To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee,

I'm writing in regards to the legislative exemptions that allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers and staff. I have chosen to send my children to a faith-based educational institution. I have made great financial sacrifices to do so. The primary reason that I have done this is because I want my children to grow up in an environment where the beliefs I hold dear in my home are the same beliefs that are practiced in my children's schooling. Sometimes those beliefs are different from the wider secular society. However, one of the great privileges of growing up in Australia is that we can live out these beliefs in a free society free from persecution.

If these protections are removed by removing the ability of these institutions to discriminate according to their belief system then we are moving away from a free society and towards an autocratic one. I believe this will jeopardise the very fabric that Australia has been built upon and will progressively change the character of our nation. For generations the ability to discriminate in this area in a reasoned and thoughtful manner has been part of our society. I urge you to continue to uphold this ability so that my children can live out their beliefs not just at home but also at their school.

Kind Regards

Blair Courtney-O'Connor