



Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

December 15 2021

Dear Secretary

[Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 and Related Bills](#)

Aleph Melbourne rejects legislative reform that allows harm to come to LGBTIQ+ people. Overwhelmingly and increasingly, the Australian Jewish community supports the full inclusion, respect and dignity of LGBTIQ+ people. This is evidenced by participation of such organisations as Jewish Care, the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Zionism Victoria, the Zionist Federation of Australia, National Council of Jewish Women Australia and a swathe of other Jewish youth, religious and community organisations in the annual Melbourne Midsumma Pride March.

With reference to the December 2, 2021 story "[Jewish schools react to proposed law](#)" in the *Australian Jewish News*, the bulk of Melbourne's Jewish days schools, spanning Progressive, traditional, Zionist and Modern Orthodox ideologies, reject the notion that staff and students should be excluded from participation based on gender identity or sexual orientation. Noting the commendable approach by Sydney's Moriah College:

"We aim to integrate Modern Orthodox Zionist Jewish values into our modern world and society, and we view the diversity of our educators and workforce as a huge benefit in achieving this goal," he said.

"Diversity enriches the educational experience for our children."

Whilst we strongly support protection from antisemitism and anti-Jewish sentiment, this should not come at the expense of diminished protections for LGBTIQ+ individuals.

Sincerely,

Michael Barnett
Co-convenor, Aleph Melbourne

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Aleph Melbourne is a social, support and advocacy group for same-sex attracted, trans and gender diverse, and intersex people (and allies) who have a Jewish heritage, living in Melbourne, Australia.