



THE SENATE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Note from committee secretariat

Approximately 49 submissions were received that were identical or substantially similar to the attached form letter.

The committee therefore agreed to publish one example of this form letter, along with a cover note setting out the approximate number of submissions received.

Please accept my submission:

I pray that the committee will strongly recommend MPs vote against the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Removing Discrimination Against Students) Bill 2018.

This augmenting of existing anti-discrimination law is not needed because the undisputed fact is that no Christian school wants to expel or discipline students who simply struggle with unwanted homosexual urges, or those who remain in the closet.

However, it is imperative that schools retain the freedom to expel on these grounds in order to remove those students who would openly flaunt homosexual behaviour, corrupting others and directly challenging the environment of faith that parents choose for their children.

I note that the explanatory memorandum to this bill claims that the indirect discrimination provisions in the Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) will still allow faith-based education institutions to impose reasonable conditions, requirements or practices on students in accordance with the doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings of their particular religion or creed. But section 7B of the SDA, which deals with indirect discrimination, does not define 'reasonableness' to any sufficient degree to give Christian schools clarity or confidence that their ethos will be protected if this was tested in the courts.

This bill, therefore, would inevitably expose Christian schools to targeted campaigns to test the law, orchestrated against them by homosexual student activists and organisations. Consequently, I do not think it is going too far to say that this bill will spell the beginning of the end for effective independent Christian education in Australia if it ever becomes law.

For these reasons, I implore the committee to recommend MPs vote against this bill.

Yours faithfully,