



THE SENATE

**LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**Note from committee secretariat**

Approximately 354 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.

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You have a new submission.

Subject: Faith-based schools must remain free to operate in accordance with their ethos.

Message: To Whom it May Concern,

I write to you in regards to the inquiry on the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Removing Discrimination Against Students) Bill 2018.

My concern is that the legislation is being pushed on the purported ground of stopping gay students from being discriminated against, when this hasn't been shown to be the case.

The legislation has far greater consequences for faith-based schools beyond this furphy and threatens to impair their ability to teach a Christian view of marriage and sexuality.

Faith-based schools must remain free to operate in accordance with their ethos.

Seven in ten Australians identify with a religion, so if any changes are made to religious exemptions, it should be to broaden rather than restrict religious freedom.

Winding back religious exemptions undermines the independence of non-government schools.

Repealing faith-based exemptions is a breach of promise with voters who were repeatedly told before and during the plebiscite that there would be no adverse consequences to redefining marriage

Government should not interfere with the ability of faith-based schools to operate in accordance with their ethos.

It is clearly set forth in international human rights that parents must be able educate their children according to their preferred religious values.

Yours faithfully,

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