



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### HUMAN RIGHTS SUB-COMMITTEE

#### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Inquiry into the status of religion or belief

---

## Examining the protections to freedom of religion or belief

A federal parliamentary committee will examine the legal protections Australia has in place to protect the important human right to freedom of religion or belief at a public hearing this Friday in Canberra.

[The Human Rights Sub-Committee](#) of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hold the hearing for its inquiry into the status of the human right to freedom of religion or belief.

Sub-Committee Chair [Kevin Andrews MP](#) says the hearing will focus on the legal framework of religious freedom in Australia.

“The Sub-Committee is preparing an interim report which will examine the legal protections Australia has in place to protect the important human right to freedom of religion or belief.

This report will provide a basis upon which the inquiry will progress to examine the other terms of reference.”

At this hearing, the Sub-Committee will hear from:

- The Australian Human Rights Commission
- ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Attorney-General’s Department
- Australian Law Reform Commission

The programs for the hearing can be found on the inquiry [website](#).

#### Public hearing details:

**Date:** Friday 27 October 2017

**Time:** 8.30am to 10.10am

**Location:** Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra

These hearings will be streamed live at [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live).

#### Media enquiries:

Mr Kevin Andrews MP (Menzies, Victoria), Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Contact: Cristy Elliott on (03) 9848 9900 or mobile: 0422 291 454.

**For background:**

Committee Secretariat

Phone (02) 6277 2313

Email [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au)

Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

Media release issue date: 26 October 2017