



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

Committee examines freedom of religion

Do Australians have the right to practice their beliefs? Can they freely speak of these beliefs and organise and associate with others who share the same faith? Does freedom of religion and belief need greater protection under the law? Or, are some beliefs and practices not acceptable in Australian society today?

These are some of the questions being examined by the current inquiry into the status of the human right to freedom of religion or belief which will hold hearing in Hobart on Tuesday 5 June.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade [Human Rights Sub-Committee](#) Chair, [Mr Kevin Andrews MP](#), says the hearing will focus on the protection of the right to freedom or belief in Australia.

“Many submission to this inquiry have expressed concern that freedom of religion or belief is being challenged by the emphasis placed on other human rights,” Mr Andrews said.

“What form any additional protections might take, and how to balance religious freedom with other human rights, are matters being considered by the Sub-Committee.”

The Sub-Committee will hear evidence from activists, legal scholars, and religious ministers who have an interest in the interaction between religious freedom and other rights.

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

Public hearing details:

Date: Tuesday 5 June 2018

Time: 10:30am to 3:00pm

Location:

Room One

Parliament of Tasmania

1 Salamanca Pl, Hobart

Media enquiries:

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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.

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