Dear Attorney-General Christian Porter,

Religious Discrimination Bill: Parents’ right must be included.

After reviewing the proposed Religious Discrimination Bill, I believe that:

A. The Bill is inadequate:

a) It does not address parents’ and guardians’ right. Programmes, such as ‘Safe Schools’ that teach radical gender ideologies, have made their way into state schools. Parents, who do not want their children being taught against their religious beliefs, want the right to withdraw their children from such classes but the Bill does not deliver this.

b) It does not give religious schools the right to turn down teachers who do not conform to the schools’ religious belief. Parents do not want their children to be taught things that are against their beliefs and this is precisely why they choose to send them to a religious school.

B. The Bill is ambiguous:

a) Who decide what a religion and a lawful religious activity is? Judges, juries, theologians, politicians…?

b) What happens if a local council passes a by-law that bans some of my religious activities, such as Christmas carolling, in public places? Will that make my religious activities ‘unlawful’?

c) What does it mean to vilify? If I openly quote my scripture and someone thinks I have ‘vilified’them, what will happen to me? Will I get sacked or sued? Will I become the next Israel Folau?

Conclusion:

This Bill does not provide parents or legal guardians the right to ensure their children’s education conforms to their religious beliefs.

This Bill does not provide robust religious freedom for organisations and people who openly proclaim their faith.