Please find my profound concerns about the Religious Discrimination bill summarised below:

1. For starters Religious activity is too narrowly defined.
2. Religious organisations that offer commercial services, among their other endeavours, remain sorely unprotected.
3. The proposed legislation offers inadequate protections against competing state and federal legislation.
4. The test of ‘reasonableness’ contained in the legislation is onerous for people of faith.
5. The proposed bill will make courts responsible for interpreting religious doctrine, contravening the centuries-old principle of separation of church and state.
6. Religious freedom in the workplace remains inadequately protected.
7. The legislation allows excessive scope for small businesses to restrict the religious freedom of their employees.
8. Though non-participation in same-sex weddings was one of the original driving concerns of the legislation’s drafting, the bill fails to adequately address such concerns.
9. Israel Folau, who is arguably the highest-profile victim of religious discrimination in Australia, would remain unprotected by the draft bill.
10. The definition of terms in the draft bill is troublesome—a number of terms remain undefined, in particular the word ‘vilify’.
11. The interaction between competing rights remains unaddressed by the proposed bill.
12. Religious schools remain unprotected by the legislation.

I request a further review of this Bill and consideration given to the points above.