Dear Sir/Madam

After careful analysis we believe the Religious Discrimination Bill 2019—Exposure Draft has a myriad of shortcomings.

- No protection! Religious organisations that offer commercial services, among their other endeavours, remain sorely unprotected. Religious activity is too narrowly defined.
- The Draft legislation offers inadequate protections against competing state and federal legislation. State law can be shockingly anti-Christian. It needs serious attention.
- WHY should any business dictate what their employees do in their spare time? The legislation allows excessive scope for small businesses to restrict the religious freedom of their employees.
- Definition of terms in the draft bill is troublesome—a number of terms remain undefined, in particular the word ‘vilify’.
- Too much confusion. The interaction between competing rights remains unaddressed by the proposed bill.
- Religious charities and schools remain unprotected by the legislation.

We believe the government needs to go back to the drawing board.

Warwick Marsh
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