

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 January 2018 2:21 PM
To: Policy AGD
Subject: Comments re proposed anti-discrimination legislation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Ms Natasha Fyles,

Dear Ms Fyles,

I am writing with regard to the discussion paper on the modernisation of the anti-discrimination act. It is good to see that some thoughtful proposals are part of this. I particularly appreciated the suggestions on more rights for homeless people.

My letter concerns one particular aspect, section 37A. I am a teacher and have served most of my career with the NT Christian Schools. [REDACTED]

The proposal to remove the right for faith-based schools to discriminate against employees (current or those applying for positions) on the basis of their religious faith or lifestyle is a real concern to me. The very basis of NT Christian Schools – and a key reason why many parents choose these schools for their children) is that ALL the staff are committed, active Christians. (This is not a requirement for most independent schools.) The shared faith and committed, godly lifestyles of staff means that the school environment is one that offers a consistent message to students of the gospel of Jesus Christ being central to all of life.

If NT Christian Schools are legally required to employ the 'best' teacher (according to secular qualifications or experience) without consideration of the teacher's own personal faith and subsequent lifestyle, this would be very detrimental and destructive to the whole ethos of NT Christian Schools.

Because of this, I urge you to keep the content and intent of section 37A in whatever legislation is finally decided on

Thank you for reading and considering my request. I urge your government, in accordance with your commitment to be transparent, to release the report on the public consultation once this is finalised.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]