

Director, Legal Policy
Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
Policy.AGD@nt.gov.au

10th January 2018

Dear Director,

I am writing to you regarding the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Natasha Fyles' instruction to the Department of the Attorney General and Justice to review the Anti-Discrimination Act (1993).

Some of the proposed changes would have a significant impact on the ability of NT Christian Schools to protect, preserve and perpetuate a vision for Christian education in the Northern Territory.

I believe it is very important to respect the importance of religious freedom for faith-based educational institutions. I am a staff member at Marrara Christian College and as such, value this as an important attribute of the current Act.

In particular, the existing exemptions for religious or cultural bodies should NOT be removed. In the context of Marrara Christian College, the removal of the existing exemptions is inappropriate. The removal of exemptions would prevent the College from ensuring that families can have the confidence that the curriculum and culture of the distinctly Christian College that they chose for their children is being delivered with integrity, transparency, and consistency. The right of parents to choose the type of education their children receive should never be removed.

In closing, I request that this process remain fully transparent and that the report produced on the public consultation be released.

Kind regards,

