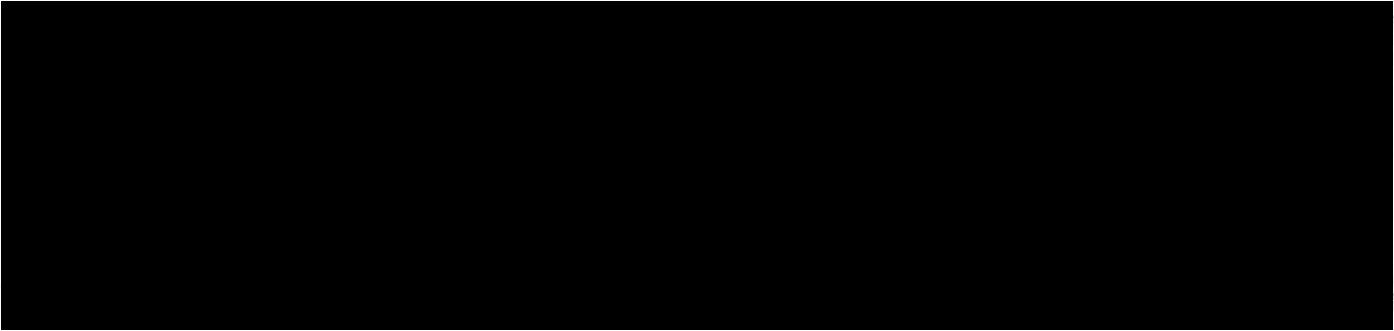


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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 October 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** Policy AGD <Policy.AGD@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** proposed changes to discrimination laws in NT

Hi,

I can't attend any of your briefing sessions about the proposed changes to these laws, but I definitely want to have my voice heard in this area.

In regards to the proposed removal of automatic exemptions for hiring practices and student enrolment requirements for Christian (or other religious) schools: I absolutely do NOT agree with this proposed change.

I realise you're trying to 'balance opposing rights' however it appears to be a very extreme way to approach it, and I don't see much balance here at all. This change would in effect remove the ability to even be a Christian school at all. If a school is forced to employ someone who doesn't even hold the same beliefs or values of the school or the parents who want their kids to grow up under these values, then it inherently loses that definition altogether.

I DO want to see bullying of people who hold differing views stopped, but I don't believe that having a defining boundary for a group is a bullying or discriminatory act. Imagine applying this same rule to other groups - e.g. political groups. It would be like saying a political party HAS to employ members of an opposing political view/party. Clearly having qualities that define an organisation is not discriminatory in itself, but rather just defining the bounds in which the organisation operates.

I cannot say any more strongly how much I OPPOSE these proposed changes, both as a parent who is about to send a child to a Christian school next year, and as a spouse of a Christian teacher who works at a Christian school in Darwin.

PLEASE take my opposition seriously and stop the process of making this change to current automatic exemptions.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]