

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2017 10:30 PM
To: Policy AGD; Kezia Purick
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Addressing the need for Christian teachers and Christian workers in Christian schools and institutions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am aware that the NT Government will be reviewing and possibly amending the Anti-Discrimination Act soon. I have heard that the NT government may be bringing in measures where Christian Schools and organisation may be required to hire people who do not share the same faith or have faith at all.

My son and daughter attend [REDACTED] because my husband and I value Christian education. My family moved [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] send our children to a protestant Christian school. We willingly pay the fees required by the school to send our children there. We pay this money so that our children can be taught by Christian teachers, who also share our faith. I have been working as a teacher in Public schools for [REDACTED]. I am currently the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I invest all of my time, energy and effort into public schooling, never imposing my faith on students, because I respect their families rights to send them to a 'non religious environment'. This is a service their parents get for free and do not have to pay for. I do currently pay for the freedom to have my children taught by Christian teachers and in a Christian way. Why take this away from me when I am willing to pay for it?

During my [REDACTED] years in the Public Schools, there has never been a shortage of work for teachers in the Northern Territory. If a non-Christian teacher can easily find work in a Public School, then why should they need to apply at a Christian School, and why should the NT Government make it compulsory for Christian schools to employ these people. This would greatly impact on families like my own, resulting in my children possibly not having a Christian teacher, a service that I am paying for! We would lose the authenticity of sending them to a Christian school if their teacher was not genuinely a Christian. Since there is plenty of work for teachers in the Public School system, and the NT Government is always recruiting teachers, even from other states, there is no need to force Christian Schools to employ non-Christian teachers. It simply is not fair on the school or on the parents who are willingly paying their fees so that their students can receive a Christ-centred education.

I worked in a Catholic school for a short time. I soon left the school as I realised how different my Protestant faith is to their Catholic traditions and doctrines. It is a totally different faith. I did not wish to pray to Mary or the other Saints, and definitely did not want to teach the students about things I didn't believe in. I was not welcome to take part in Holy Communion as I had not been christened or confirmed in the Catholic Church. Teaching in a Catholic school became very hard for me because my own faith conflicted with their's. In the same way, why would a non-Christian want to teach in a Christian school? If they do not practice the faith or believe in it, they really shouldn't be so hypocritical as to teach it. Your answer to that may be, "Then they shouldn't have to teach it if they work there." If that is the case, children like mine will miss out on a Christian education. A true Christian teacher reflects their faith in everything that they do and teach. God's grace, power and love can be seen in every subject. I spent the first [REDACTED] of my career teaching in a Christian school, and spent time teaching the aspects of God through every subject. For instance, God's truth can be seen through the correct answers students get in Maths. God's power can be seen through Science and History. God's love can be seen through poetry and song. Only a true Christian teacher can embed these teachings of God through what they do, say and teach.

Why would a non-Christian teacher insist on being employed in a Christian school? Is it to prove a point or begin the process of tearing down the very values of a Christian school? How will they share in morning devotions if they don't

agree with the faith? How will they share in Chapel/assembly when everything is based around worshiping a God they don't believe in? This is as ludicrous as me, a Christian, insisting I work in a Muslim or Hindu school, but refusing to follow their practices. There is no reason for it, since there is plenty of work in the Public Schools. It is also as ludicrous as me insisting I share my faith in a Public School when I clearly know this is not allowed. I have been respectful and obedient of the policies and procedures for years in the public system, why change what is required in the Christian School system? It is hypocritical, wrong and disrespectful to the Christian school system. It will only tear down what Christian leaders have spent so many decades creating for families like mine.

I spend my days investing myself and my services into the community and public schools. I give much of my own time and money investing into the programs I have been asked to teach, going above and beyond what is required of me. I am faithful with paying my taxes, never cheating the system. I have seen comments on social media claiming that if Christian schools receive government funding, they should not be allowed to only employ Christians. Plenty of Christians are paying their taxes which is where much of this funding is coming from. So yes, if parents like myself are public servants, paying thousands of dollars in tax, and are willing to pay school fees to a Christian school, then we should be more than entitled to have our children taught by Christians and the school funded as normal. Why should we miss out? Please leave the Christian schools alone and continue allowing my family and others to have the freedom to practice our faith, with teachers who practice the same faith. Please do not take this away from us. Politicians claim that there really is freedom of Religion in Australia, please do not take this freedom away from us.

Please leave our churches alone too. Why would a non-Christian member need to be employed by a Christian organisation? Again, would you force this on a Muslim organisation, or a Hindu organisation? It is simply unfair and silly.

Thankyou,

