



IEUA Statement Religious Discrimination Bill 2019

5 September 2019

The Independent Education Union of Australia (IEUA) expresses its dismay at the content and poor clarity of the federal government's draft Religious Discrimination Bill.

The IEUA is disappointed at the continuing practice of governments to polarize, disenfranchise and make a 'whipping post' the rights of our members who work in faith-based education.

Yet again proposed legislation completely exempts religious schools from allowing their employees the same rights that all other Australians enjoy. Here it is not the freedom to love and marry who they wish but the freedom of religion and belief itself.

Religious schools don't need this Bill.

The IEUA believes that the vast majority of employers in faith-based schools have no difficulty in employing staff of other faiths or indeed are threatened by their staff or students expressing diverse views.

The IEUA has and will continue to lobby governments and politicians to remove the unreasonable and harmful exemptions from discrimination law enjoyed by employers in our industry.

As the IEUA has made abundantly clear in our recent submissions and appearances before Senate inquiries, that we believe that these exemptions are not required by employers. Current contractual law obligations and legislation more than adequately provide for employers to manage their workforces consistent with their beliefs and tenants.

The IEUA will call upon the Parliament of Australia to reject this current Bill as it not only fails to improve the current undermining of rights of our members but is an untidy and problematic drafting of legislation that will cause further confusion.

The IEUA will continue to carefully examine the Bill, seek expert advice and engage with stakeholders to ensure that IEUA members' interests are paramount.

Chris Watt
Federal Secretary