



New South Wales
Council for
Civil Liberties

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ADDITIONAL QUESTION ON THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND EQUALITY) BILL2020

NSW COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES RESPONSE TO QUESTION 8

Question 8

At page 6 of your submission you identify Margaret Court and Israel Folau as “propagating hateful and certainly harmful views”, what are these please? And why have you depicted the Christian/Biblical hope for salvation in this fashion? Do you acknowledge that the Christian method/belief is to love the sinner but reject the sin, and what is wrong with this approach?

Answer Q8

The question is based on an incorrect representation of the meaning of the relevant paragraphs on page 6 of the NSWCCL submission.

The NSWCCL submission does not state that I or the NSWCCL ‘identify’ Margaret Court and Israel Folau as “propagating hateful and certainly harmful views’. We express no view on this.

Nor does the NSWCCL submission make any reference to any Christian/Biblical beliefs about salvation, sin or sinners.

The NSWCCL Submission argues that some people of Christian faith who publicly opposed the Christian views of Israel Folau and Margaret Court “are likely to have done so because they perceived them as propagating hateful, and certainly harmful views, about others on the grounds of their sexuality”.

As the submission states, the point being made by NSWCCL is that the public controversy in relation to the views of these two people, in part, manifested a diversity of beliefs among Christians and cannot be accurately depicted as an attack on Christianity or religion per se.

This point was made in response Mr Latham’s claim in his second reading speech that:

...the fastest growing form of discrimination in our society is against people of religious faith, especially Christians. We have all seen the high-profile cases of Israel Folau and Margaret Court, outstanding Australians treated like second-class citizens because they take a literal interpretation of the Bible’. (NSW Hansard 13th May 2020 p41)

Dr Lesley Lynch
NSWCCL
2nd December 2020.