

**Submission
No 47**

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND EQUALITY) BILL 2020

Organisation: lilyrose Antenatal Clinic and lilyrose Pregnancy Help

Date Received: 21 August 2020

lilyrose

Finding a way for lives to blossom

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A Ministry of

LifeHouse
CARE

To the Secretariat,

Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination
Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020

lilyrose Antenatal Clinic &

lilyrose Pregnancy Help

12 Earl St.

Coffs Harbour, 2450, NSW

20/8/2020

Dear Committee Chair,

Our Organisation, endorses the statements, sentiment and purpose of the Anti-discrimination Amendment Bill 2020. In our submission we will explain how our established service has cared for and supported pregnant women since 2012.

Lilyrose provides life affirming care by a team of voluntary, qualified and experienced staff who have identified a gap in Care for pregnant women. As a result, Lilyrose Pregnancy Help began, providing free emotional support, compassionate caring, baby goods plus educational resources for Schools to enhance their Lifestyle subjects. In 2015, an Antenatal Clinic commenced under the auspices of LifeHouse Church's Care Organisation.

The Antenatal Clinic was initially staffed by 2 highly qualified GP Obstetricians, Registered Nurses and support personnel from various Church Denominations. These include, Baptist, Catholic and Australian Christian Churches united in our Christian beliefs and values. Inspired by the tenets of our faith we have provided non-discriminatory loving care to each and every woman.

In this context we see pregnant women requiring our specialised model of support with outstanding amounts of time to address their needs. We identify how Pregnancy Help can best support and alleviate any concerns and reassure through excellent Clinical Care and referrals on to other services. Our GP Obstetrician shows each mum her baby on the Ultrasound Monitor, explaining the intricacies of human development, giving mums confidence and reassurance as they watch their baby develop.

*Over and above Bulk Billing for all patients, we provide financial assistance with Ultrasound imaging, Pathology, Pharmacy, Dental, Specialist Consultation expenses and Allied Health Services as required. Our non-discriminatory care includes all women, refugees and student visa holders who may not yet have Medicare to fund their visits. **This unique, individualised care is under threat without the protections of this Bill.***

The style of our service is a reflection of our united Christian beliefs and affiliations. We differentiate from an everyday health provider through the on-going care & support regardless of choices our patients or clients make. As a registered charity our volunteers train to provide professional care with a view to enhancing the wellbeing of our patients.

The inclusion of Clause 22M in this Bill would be imperative for Lilyrose to maintain the right to select staff who shared our stated Christian values of respect for human life.

As an organisation we support Clause 22Z which would safeguard Lilyrose from being forced to engage in conduct contrary to our beliefs and principles.

Without the protection of this Bill, Lilyrose is under threat and its staff could be subject to intimidation, particularly from those who are intolerant of our viewpoint. We believe Parliament needs to protect our Service from vilification and hate speech.

Our vision & mission is directed by our love for God, the value He places on each person and a commitment to live our faith in a manner consistent with His teachings..

It's vital Parliament passes this Bill to ensure all aspects of religious freedoms are protected. Our heartfelt thanks to Mark Latham MP for the ethos and development of this document.

Lilyrose Executive Committee

Dr. Deirdre Little

M.B.B.S.D.R.A.N.Z.C.O.G.F.A.C.R.R.M.

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Lilyrose Co-Ordinator, Manager, Registered Nurse.