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

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TO THE SECRETARIAT

Friday, 21 August 2020

The Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship supports the NSW Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020, and thank Mr Mark Latham and Rev. Fred Nile for its preparation.

There is indeed a need for religious freedom to be protected in the ways enumerated in the Bill. We wish the Bill could go further in protection of the right of conscience for medical and dental practitioners but recognise the power of alternate laws.

We think it is ethically wrong to be obliged to add signatures in the chain of command that would lead, for example, to the late term abortion on the grounds of sex discrimination but that is another matter.

We perceive protection in the Bill for a student not wishing to be submitted to certain programmes of education, but wonder about the rights of a parent to withdraw a child from immersion in such programmes that is used by called Safe Schools Programmes but whose content is now appearing under different guises.

There will be need for vigilance as new challenges against religious freedom emerge but in the meantime, we support the initiatives contained within this current Bill.

Sincerely

Prof. John Whitehall National Chair CMDFA



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