

**Submission
No 152**

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

Name: Julia Papasidero

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Clarity of message to all – Religious freedom bill

Dear Committee Chair,

Religious organisations have a proud and proactive history of service to the growth of multicultural Australia. They should be able to continue their peaceful and community-driven mission of in accordance with their individual, timeless wisdom positively impacting individuals, families and communities throughout the ages.

Like political parties, Religious schools should be free to give preference to persons of the same religion. Doing so lays the timeless foundation of consistency of message.

A religious school may admit students of many different faiths or it may prefer students only of its own faith; but that discretion should be available to it - being transparent is key.

This includes the ability of faith-based bodies to retain the freedom to recruit likeminded staff as ambassadors for their mission, without being sued for discrimination.

Religious organisations must be able to publicly hire venues, run events and organise charities, schools and clubs in accordance with their traditions - without tradition we only have the fluctuations of fashion or trends.

The Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 protects the ability of schools to carry out their traditional ethos.

I call on the parliament to pass the bill to ensure religious freedom is protected in the free country we know and love - Australia.

Kind regards,

Julia Papasidero