

CONCERNS OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS IGNORED IN QHRC REPORT ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT

2 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Australian Association of Christian Schools is concerned the views of its member schools have been ignored by the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC) in its Review of the Anti-Discrimination Act.

“We are extremely disappointed that although there were at least 40 references in the QHRC report to our submission, not one of our proposals was adopted,” said Executive Officer, Vanessa Cheng.

“It is clear that the Human Rights Commission has read and ignored our submission,” said Mrs Cheng, “as it persistently rejects our concerns and adopts recommendations to the contrary.”

“The Christian school model requires that ALL staff, including Science teachers, share and practice the faith of the school community. We believe this provides the best, holistic learning environment for our students. We explained this in our submission, the QHRC even quoted us in their Report and yet their Recommendation seeks to destroy this foundational principle of our schools,” said Mrs Cheng.

“The Human Rights Commission cannot pick and choose which human rights it protects. It should care about the rights of all Queenslanders, including people of faith.”

These Recommendations seek to weaken exceptions to the Act that allow religious schools to employ staff that hold and practice the same religious belief as the school community.

“We implore Attorney-General Shannon Fentiman to push back against some of these Recommendations, particularly Recommendation 39.4, which fundamentally undermines the operation of Christian schools, preventing Queensland parents from choosing a genuine, faith based education for their children.”

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