

I support fully the right of a school to be able to preference employment based on a person's religion, including consideration of whether the person practises their religion.

My daughter attends a school where all staff and students are expected to practise the Catholic Faith. If people like that, they attend the school. If they don't, they choose to go to another school, of which there are many. This is not a problem for anyone.

However there seems to be a determined push to make this a problem by pretending that there is a discrimination issue. This is nonsense. There are simply no secular living teachers who can't find a job because a school such as that which my daughter attends would refuse their employment. Concern for the right of secular teachers to work in religious schools is like being concerned for the right of vegetarians to work in butcher's shops. They don't want to, and there are so many other places to work.

The actual intent of those pushing change to the law is to undermine parents who wish their children to be brought up with a traditional religious faith. This is anathema to some, and I would suggest such people would tend to work at places like the Law Reform Commission.

I object strongly to a secular person telling me that my daughter's teachers do not need to be practising members of her faith.

Schools in faith communities may well be able to get around these laws. The school is likely to be known to interested teachers; there would be no need to advertise positions. It would take draconian intervention to ensure a school did not preference teacher's with their preferred faith. I do not support laws which give encouragement for such intervention, because I am sure there are people who would engage in all manner of tyranny in the name of anti-discrimination.

An effective reform to support religious education would be to abolish the Law Reform Commission so that proposals so dangerous for religious liberty do not have a taxpayer funded platform for their promotion.