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Ch 1. The Inquiry in Context

Ch 2. Scrutiny Mechanisms

Ch 3. Freedom of Speech

Linked closely with freedom of and from religion, this cornerstone of democracy is under increasing assault from those who would seek to ban criticism of religion. Opposition to extremist ideology is not bigotry, it is a moral duty.

Ch 4. Freedom of Religion

There seems to be a rising tide of religiosity in certain circles in Australia and the notion of 'freedom *from* religion' is frequently sidelined in Governmental policy, practise and legislation, with little public outcry. A conversation about this needs to be had nationally, without prejudice, and the ideas and fascinations offered by various religious texts need to be given proper scrutiny in the light of modernity, lest we run the risk of indulging and being held hostage by the demands of various would-be theocracies.

The provision of religious Chaplains in state schools is presented under the guise of providing "counselling" and "guidance" to students, with supposed restrictions applied to proselytising. This expensive national undertaking has somehow avoided proper scrutiny, despite numerous high court rulings that the practice is unconstitutional. If counselling services are to be provided, they should be offered by trained and qualified mental health professionals, not religious enthusiasts. The notion that proselytising is not happening with Chaplains in schools is akin to employing dentists who promise not to practise any dentistry. It's absurd.

The imposition of halal certification and halal slaughter on Australian commerce is equally troubling given recent enthusiasm for the practice expressed by Government ministers, potentially in conflict with Section 116 of the Australian Constitution. The notion that any individual set of superstitions can be advocated for and applied to an entire society is completely at odds with the notion of freedom of religion, as well as freedom from religion. The Sikh religion is expressly forbidden from eating meat or other foods that have been prepared in a ritualistic way, so effectively the consumption of halal products is against their religion. Additionally, laws that advocate for the humane slaughter of animals are given a lower priority than those affiliated with the "protection of religious rights". Where incompatibilities exist between religious dogma and a free society- decisions must not be taken that favour theology over equality or morality.

Additionally, the concessions and tax allowances currently given to religious institutions need to be given greater scrutiny. Tests apply to non-religious charities to determine their charitable worth and eligibility for tax exemptions. These same criteria should be applied to all churches, mosques, synagogues, and religious institutions, as the current position of granting automatic tax exemptions merely on the basis of an organisation's religious affiliation is a tradition that persists from the Dark Ages, and one that today offers no measurable benefit to society at large. Especially in light of recent revelations about the unconscionable behaviour of clergy with children, and the subsequent cover-ups, there is no moral or ethical high-ground that can be legitimately claimed by these institutions, and certainly no justification for continued concessions funded by tax payers.

We do not brandish phrases like "In God We Trust" on our government buildings or our currency, yet seemingly for tradition's sake alone, taboos persist about applying proper scrutiny to religious beliefs and practises and their wide-reaching impacts. While our Parliaments still recite the Lord's Prayer, it is very difficult to trust that our Governments are truly taking their jobs seriously. If biblical passages can hold more weight in the minds of our ministers than scientific evidence regarding climate change, or the present human rights struggle for marriage equality, this is an issue which requires attention as a matter of urgency. If a moral principle or statement about reality is true, it is true for all of us, and is quite often supported by evidence.

Ch 5. Freedom of Association

Ch 6. Freedom of Movement

Ch 7. Property Rights

Ch 8. Property Rights—Real Property

Ch 9. Retrospective Laws

Ch 10. Fair Trial

Ch 11. Burden of Proof

Ch 12. Privilege Against Self-incrimination

Ch 13. Client Legal Privilege

Ch 14. Strict and Absolute Liability

Ch 15. Procedural fairness

Ch 16. Delegating Legislative Power

Ch 17. Immunity from Civil Liability

Ch 18. Judicial Review

General feedback

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