

The ALRC should respect the freedom of all independent schools to follow their Christian or other faith beliefs when running their schools – this includes the hiring of teachers, the expectations of teachers to live an example of the faith of the school, and also the admitting of students to the school with the expected behaviour of these students in relation to the faith of the school they attend.

Surely this is the reason we have private schools.

Every Australian has access to free public education but every Australian should also have the freedom to choose a school in keeping with their faith, values or particular ideas for education.

One third of parents choose to send their children to private schools throughout Australia. Why would the ALRC try to interfere with this by imposing restrictions on these schools as to how they should be run.

Some questions to ponder:

How much government money for education is saved by children attending private schools?

What is the standard of education at these private schools?

Are the school leavers from private schools contributing effectively to Australian society?

Does the Australian Law Reform Commission believe in people having freedom to choose in all aspects of their lives when these choices are not deleterious to others?

If further restrictions are placed on these schools the whole private system will begin to crumble, is the Government ready for the fall out?

The numbers of children being educated at home is steadily increasing; is the ALRC prepared for many more parents to choose home education if the private schools can no longer provide the education that complements the values they teach their children in the home.

I request that you consider all of these points in the current inquiry.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Clare Ryan