

The Prime Minister and Attorney-General are breaking their commitment to schools and parents on this issue.

The law should continue to allow faith-based schools to preference adherents and supporters of their ethos in decisions about school employment and student enrolment.

The rights of Copts, Anglican, Jewish, Catholic, and Muslim parents to raise their children in accordance with their beliefs is an integral part of Australia's multicultural and multifaith tradition.

It is the right of people in a democracy to have the choice to send their children to a school that teaches, exemplifies models and encourages the life-long pursuit of their families faith based teaching so that there is a meshing of their child's life at school , home and "community of faith" to best prepare for a world of disparate beliefs.

The ALRC proposals are destructive of these longstanding standards and expectations and for example would not permit a Christian school to create an authentic community of faith that exemplifies a caring supportive environment.

The most intrusive ALRC proposal is to give the Australian Human Rights Commission the power to inquire into faith-based schools for what it calls "systemic unlawful discrimination". These draconian investigative powers to curtail religious freedom are the hallmark of an authoritarian state.

END