

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Anti Discrimination Law](#)
Subject: Current religious schools survey.
Date: Thursday, 23 February 2023 12:23:57 PM

Since my earlier email, I have received a “copy”, sort of, of your survey.
Here is my response.

- My children attended a religious school. My grand-daughter currently attends a religious school. My wife currently works as an ESO at a religious school.
- I have lived in South Australia since 1969. My children attended a religious school in Gawler, my grand-daughter in Hope Valley, and my wife works at Salisbury East.
- I personally hold a Certificate 4 in Theology from the Bible College of South Australia.
- My wife and I chose to send our children to a religious school back in the 1980’s. We were not impressed with the public schools in our area at the time, and chose to take the advice of a good friend who recommended a relatively new religious school which had opened in Gawler.
- My grand-daughter is thriving at her religious school. She is learning how to care for people in a loving way, whilst achieving good progress in her academic work. I appreciate the fact that her teachers and all the staff hold to the same Biblical values that I, and her parents, hold dear.
- A “Community of Faith” is vital to the success of a religious school. Whether it be of Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist or whatever faith, having the commonality of faith between staff is essential to providing a loving, caring and consistent example to the children who attend. Unless the entire school staff uphold the same religious convictions, how can they possibly work together in an harmonious way? And, if the staff are not in harmony, this will have detrimental effects on the children.
- I have not personally encountered any discrimination at the religious institutions I have been involved with.
- I am concerned about the “thin edge of the wedge”. A religious school should be; and in my experience has been; transparent about their beliefs up front. It was my choice to accept their doctrine, or not. I do not expect a school to change its ethos to suit the various woke ideologies that are present in today’s society.
- Staff and students at a religious school should be held accountable to the doctrines upon which the school is founded and hold to. In the case of a Christian school, as in my experience, this means adherence to the Bible. Eg basic beliefs such as; God created humans male and female, marriage is between one woman and one man in an exclusive relationship for life; are central to my faith. These are, and should be non-negotiables for a Christian school; without fear of prosecution or vilification from outside objectors. Surely this is common sense. A religious school, Christian or otherwise, should be able to hold its staff and students to the tenants of its faith. And this isn’t just for schools. What about our Political parties? Surely they inquire into the beliefs of potential candidates prior to backing them.

- Religious schools should be able to inquire as to the name of the church or temple or mosque that a potential employee attends; the role(s) they serve in there, and if necessary a letter/reference from their church, temple, mosque. This is simply due diligence on their part, as once hired, a teacher in a religious school represents that school – for better or for worse. Institutions; not just schools; are often judged by the actions of their staff. (Particularly in these days of social media).

I hope the above comments are useful. I also wrote to my local member; Tony Zappia MP; about this issue earlier this month.

I believe that the current push by the lgbt community is a direct attack on the foundations of our society. The “Yes” vote lied to us. They sought “marriage equality” they told us. Now they seek to destroy the very moral fabric of our society. May God have mercy on their souls.

Blessings

Phil Crocker.

