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From: Paul McCaffrey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2023 3:23 PM
To: Anti Discrimination Law
Subject: ALRC - Protection of Rights of Parents of Religious Schools Students - Present and Future

Dear Officer,

Please accept this short submission on behalf of my wife and me, parents of five former Religious School students and grandparents of seventeen current and future Religious School students, currently living in Victoria, South Australia and the A C T.

Our five children were educated in five overseas countries and in two Australian states, while my wife and I lived and worked in Western Europe, the Middle East, New Zealand, India and North America for 25 years. Our children were educated in many different schools and various school systems, including government primary schools, foreign embassy schools, Anglican and Catholic secondary schools, located in Australia and overseas. In certain schools overseas, the primary language of teaching was not English.

Eleven of our seventeen grandchildren have enjoyed a similar experience of a variety of schools and school systems when living overseas in the Pacific Islands, Spain and South America.

Broadly speaking, our children and grandchildren have enjoyed reasonable academic success. All bar one of the five children has already studied at the tertiary level in Australia. Three of our children have also successfully completed tertiary studies at Western European universities. The eldest four of our grandchildren will be attending a major Melbourne university this year.

Suffice to say that our firm belief is that generally speaking, religious schools have provided our children with the best support for the moral values which we as parents have adopted and practised in raising our large family.

We oppose any changes to the sensible exemptions for faith-based schools already provided in section 38 of the Sex Discrimination Act. Parents of children who wish to have their children educated in schools with “activist teachers”, LGBTQ+ staff and gender identity and sexual orientation practices that contradict the key moral teachings of the faith based schools are free to move their children to the nearest state school.

Paul and Maree McCaffrey
24 February 2023

Sent from my iPad