



SHORE

Blue Street North Sydney
PO Box 1221
North Sydney NSW 2059
Telephone 02 9923 2277
www.shore.nsw.edu.au
enquiries@shore.nsw.edu.au
ABN 60 352 822 184
CRICOS 00772M

10 March 2023

The Hon Justice Stephen Rothman AM
Chair
Australian Law Reform Commission
By Email: info@alrc.gov.au

Dear Justice Rothman

I write as Headmaster of Shore in reference to the preliminary recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission on the interface of religious freedom and anti-discrimination legislation.

Shore, in company with schools of Christian foundation of its class and kind, has no intention of discriminating against LGBTIQ+ students. They are welcome to enrol and will not be subject to expulsion should they subsequently declare their preferred gender identity. Indeed Shore already enrolls such students and provides equitable access to all School services.

Similarly, concentration by some elements of the media on alleged discrimination by such schools of LGBTIQ+ staff is misplaced. What is precious to Shore is the capacity to give preferred employment to staff who are Christian. We maintain that our faith perspective is integrated and comprehensive and cannot effectively be manifested if siloed to Chapel and Christian Studies. Faith is a matter not just of belief but of being, and we would want staff to be able to manifest faith in action in their academic, co-curricular and pastoral dealings with students. This by no means suggests that Shore will only employ Christian staff; it is rather a question of ability to avoid costly legal defence if it is alleged in future that Shore has employed someone simply because they are Christian. Our ideal of course is to employ highly able staff who are also Christian. This is a much broader category than the reductionist view that is about sexual preference, about which we do not enquire at the time of employment interview.

Yours faithfully



DR JOHN COLLIER
Headmaster

