Religious Schools and Discrimination Law Reforms

The following points I wish to submit to be reviewed in light of the pending changes;

1. The changes serve to elevate 'equality rights' above 'liberty rights' which is an unfair discrimination in itself

2. The changes would transgress the line separating church and state giving the State the authority to decide how a religious organisation ought to function. The State would be undermining their school's ability to function freely in accordance with its doctrinal standards.

3. The Census results demonstrate that fewer Australians identify with a particular religious category, but the fact that enrolments in Christian schools are on the increase, demonstrates that people still want the values that Christian schools hold (they like the fruit of the Christian gospel even if they are not committed to the root from which the fruit comes).

4. Governments ought to respect the rights of people to choose genuinely Christian education which is a right recognised by section 18.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – 18.4 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

5. The impact of legislation limiting the rights of religious schools from employing Christian people across all its positions would be to make them indistinct from public schools.

6. The changes being debated would create undue additional work for religious schools who would bear the onus of proving why a position ought to be given to a person who shares the school's religious convictions.

7. As Christians, we respect the rights of students who identify as LGBTQI+ and expect our Christian schools to do the same. No one should be harrassed or hated. We do not want laws that would allow a school to discriminate against a student, but these possible law changes do not address that issue.