



The Hon Mark Speakman SC MP  
Attorney-General of NSW  
e office@speakman.minister.nsw.gov.au

31 March 2021

Dear Attorney-General

**Report of the NSW Joint Select Committee Inquiry into the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020**

We refer to the report of the NSW Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 tabled on 31 March 2021.

As organisations representing a diverse range of stakeholders and interests, we support fair and equal discrimination laws which protect all of us, including people of faith and those who are not religious, equally alongside other groups.

Unfortunately, the Committee's report into the Bill introduced by One Nation NSW Leader, The Honourable Mark Latham MLC, has failed to address some concerns raised by our various organisations in key areas such as employment, education and access to services, such as healthcare. A Government Bill which adopts critical aspects of the One Nation NSW proposal would not attract our support, as it would not protect all of us, equally. For this reason, we do not support all the recommendations or findings of this Committee.

Critical aspects of the One Nation NSW Religion Bill, if adopted by Government, would:

- make it harder for employers, educators, and professional and licencing bodies to foster inclusive cultures and protect their employees, students, customers and clients from harmful conduct motivated by one person's beliefs;
- privilege certain institutions over people, by granting such organisations free-standing rights against discrimination and setting standards for others to meet which those institutions are not willing nor required to meet themselves;

- privilege religion over other protected attributes in some regards, and in other regards, fail to extend similar protections as currently exist on other grounds to all people of faith.

We seek your commitment to consulting with us, and the broader community, on your response to the Committee's recommendations and in any reforms in this area to ensure our laws protect all of us, equally.

Yours sincerely,

*Letter signed by the following organisations:*

ACON

Australian Association of Social Workers

Australian Services Union NSW & ACT Services Branch

Domestic Violence NSW

DV West

Equality Australia

Independent Education Union of Australia NSW/ACT Branch

NSW Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby

NSW Teachers Federation

Public Health Association of Australia

Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Rainbodhi LGBTQIA+ Buddhist Community

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Uniting NSW/ACT

The Very Revd Dr Greg Jenks, Dean of Grafton Cathedral

Women with Disabilities Australia

Women's Electoral Lobby

Women's Legal Service NSW

Women's Safety NSW