



# Hindu Council of Australia

(ACN 082 437 670)

Dear Hon Jullian Lesser MP

In relation to the proposed Religious Freedom bill, Hindu Council advised the following points for your consideration:

- Hindu religion is a new religion in Australia and have no Hindu schools, hospitals, age care homes etc. Our members work for many faith based institutes and their employment or religious freedom should not be adversely affected by the proposed law.
- There is no level playing field between new and established religion's institutes in Australia.
- Individuals should be free to practise their own faith and not having to hide their religious identity at workplace or in public
- protected from being asked to follow someone else's (including employer's) faith
- protected from having to follow any faith at all if they choose so
- Religious freedom in our view should extend to what a religious person does to themselves and should not extend beyond their body, definitely not to people of other faiths or people who profess no faith.
- Religious freedom should not override human rights, rights to fair treatment etc.
- Religious freedom of a person should not extend to other people i.e. to affect/denigrate/call names to people of other faiths or to people of no faith.
- Only those employment roles which require religious teaching or rituals be allowed to discriminate based on religion. (A plumber or a heart surgeon need not have the same religion as the hospital they work for.)
- Only those organizations whose primary role is teaching and rituals can be classified as religious organizations.
- To help cohesiveness of Australian society, religious schools should enrol some students of other religions also.

Please contact myself or Mr Surinder Jain ( M 0451 308 800) , Vice President , HCA for any further details.

Kind Regards

*Mehtapj*

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