

# Submission to Religious Freedom Review 2018

Mr Phillip Ruddock  
Chair, Religious Freedom Review Panel  
C/O Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
PO Box 6500  
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13<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Mr Ruddock and Review Panel,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this Review. I do so firstly in my capacity as a concerned husband and parent, and also as a business owner and avid adult educator.

On the following pages I wish to offer my perspective on:

1. Unintended consequences.
2. Snapshots of the impact on religious freedom and freedom of speech - once same sex marriage (SSM) had been introduced overseas.
3. Snapshots of loss of religious freedom and freedom of speech in Australia prior to SSM!
4. Outcomes and Recommendations.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspect of this submission as required with the Panel and give full permission for publication of same.

Peter Killin MBA, BEd.

I disapprove of what  
you say, but I will  
defend to the death  
your right to say it.

Attributed to Voltaire

## 1. Unintended Consequences

- The Opposition Leader; Mr Shorten is on record: *“We should teach our history the way it was. That in large part is our Judeo Christian history. It helps constitute who we are as a people, it is the basis of our Parliamentary democracy, the Westminster tradition.”*<sup>1</sup>.
- The Prime Minister rightly stated recently: *“There is a high risk of unintended consequences when Parliament attempts to legislate protections for basic rights and freedoms, such as freedom of religion.....  
...The government is particularly concerned to prevent uncertainties caused by generally worded Bill of Rights-style declarations.”*<sup>2</sup>.
- Kuby warns us of the potential: *“Destruction of Freedom in the Name of Freedom.”*<sup>3</sup>. Since same sex marriage recently became law, homosexual activists have been busy developing their next wave;<sup>4</sup> trying to restrict the religious beliefs and free speech of 60% of the Australian population who reported religious affiliations in the 2016 census.<sup>5</sup>

To clarify the above reasoning:

- Mr Shorten – our Judeo Christian heritage is who we are...
- Prime Minister – unintended consequences ... (in) attempts to legislate protections...
- Kuby – destruction of freedom in the name of freedom...

The unfolding reality begs this question:

**Why would we dare endanger our heritage and who we are, risking unintended consequences on a so-called path to freedom for a minority, via the destruction of freedoms for the majority?**

The “right” for one to not be offended – should not trump the right of another to speak.

<sup>1</sup> Mr B. Shorten. Meet Your Candidate Forum. <http://www.acl.org.au/we-should-teach-history-the-way-it-was>. Accessed 10/1/18.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Minister Turnbull <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/philip-ruddock-appointed-to-conduct-review-of-australias-religious-freedoms-20171121-gzq9cl.html>. Accessed 10/1/18

<sup>3</sup> Gabriele Kuby, Title: “The Global Sexual Revolution: The Destruction of Freedom in the Name of Freedom.” 2015.

<sup>4</sup> “Marriage equality is a reality – so what’s the next LGBTI battle?” <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/28/marriage-equality-is-a-reality-so-whats-the-next-lgbti-battle>. Accessed 12/1/18.

<sup>5</sup> “How we worship – or not.” 2016 Census. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2024.0> ABS. Accessed 10/1/18.

## 2. International Snapshots

**2.1** Imagine a Federal Government that funds over 69,000 summer jobs for less-advantaged school kids – a great initiative. However; that same government now forces business seeking to participate in the program to attest their support of; abortion, sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression rights in order to receive funding.<sup>6</sup>

Why should a government attempt to compel anyone to make a statement supporting things that clearly run against their conscience and beliefs? Is that not a government telling its citizens what they must think?

**2.2** Imagine again your young kids are being exposed in this way: *“...children in public schools must be taught to ‘celebrate’ LGBTIQ sexuality, and parents have no right to object. Any assertion that heterosexual relationships are the norm is labelled bigotry. He cites examples of students being told to hold mock gay weddings in social studies classes and Year 6 children being taught mandatory lessons about sex toys and group sex...”*. *“But kids are being exposed to inappropriate materials and parents have lost their rights”*.<sup>7</sup> You ask the school to advise you when this sick ideology is being taught in order to remove your kids from class, but after a six year legal battle, the Court of Appeal throws out your case. Is the State in control of our kids?

**2.3** Imagine just once more, you are a parent and your child comes home from school wanting to “change their sex”. You express that this is not in their best interest because you know that we are born either male OR female (nothing else). If they go back to school (where so-called gender theory is taught) and then advise their peers or teachers of your opposition, you will be *“...automatically classified as ‘abusive’, according to Ontario’s Minister of Children and Youth Services Michael Coteau. The Province of Ontario last week passed Bill 89 which gives the state the power to take children from the homes of ‘abusive’ parents who believe in the biological, scientific and common-sense view of gender”*.<sup>8</sup> State control of belief?

The above are all happening in Canada today = Totalitarianism. The Government discriminates on funding, parents have no right to determine kids educational values and the State takes control of your kids lives.

Maybe its here already: *“A NSW Dep. of Education and Communities Legal Issues Bulletin....implies that teachers have a ‘mandatory’ duty to report parents who do not affirm their children changing gender”*.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> “Liberals add caveat to summer jobs program funding as applications open.” <http://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/liberals-add-caveat-to-summer-jobs-program-funding-as-applications-open> Dec. 19, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Steve Tourloukis <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezview/mums-fears-could-sink-samesex-marriage-push/news-story/c7ecd12e5d7fad04fb9034ed16154c10> October 2017.

<sup>8</sup> “Parents risk losing their kids if they oppose..” [http://www.acl.org.au/parents\\_risk\\_losing\\_their\\_kids\\_if\\_they\\_oppose\\_gender\\_fluid\\_theory](http://www.acl.org.au/parents_risk_losing_their_kids_if_they_oppose_gender_fluid_theory) Accessed Jan. 2018.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

## 3. Local Snapshots

**3.1** In 2015 the Catholic Archbishop of Hobart Julian Porteous distributed a pastoral care booklet “Don’t Mess With Marriage”<sup>10</sup> to all Catholic Churches and parents at Catholic schools. It provides an outline of traditional Marriage and the importance of Family to kid’s wellbeing. A “transgender” activist subsequently complained to the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commission in November 2015.

The booklet stated *“Messing with Marriage, therefore is messing with kids”*. *“The Church argued that since every child had a biological mother and father, messing with marriage was messing with kids”*.<sup>11</sup> The complainant asserted statements like this implied criminal activity and could insult, offend or humiliate an individual.

*“The Commissioner concluded that the complaint had enough merit to proceed to a full investigation, and so the parties proceeded to a conciliation process in an attempt to resolve the matter.”* In approximately May 2016, the claimant just walked away from the complaint.<sup>12</sup> This process tied up Mr. Porteous for about six months in a battle to stand for religious freedom.

So; all that grief for nothing = the “punishment” for speaking freely appears to be in the process.

**3.2** In mid 2017, a prominent homosexual activist;<sup>13</sup> also involved in the above event,<sup>14</sup> complained to the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commission about a blog written in 2011 by Presbyterian Pastor Campbell Markham. In that blog, Markham described the homosexual lifestyle as *“distressingly dangerous”* and *“having appalling health risks”*.<sup>15</sup> The dangers and health risks have been well documented in many reliable medical sources for years.<sup>16-18</sup> The activist said *“There should be strong laws against hateful and offensive language speech”*. Markham’s is a Biblical perspective backed up by current medical science. It was written on a Christian Church blog, it is a statement of fact. However; once more, the complaint has been accepted by the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commissioner. The outcome for free speech is still to be determined.

<sup>10</sup> “Don’t Mess With Marriage”. [https://www.sydneycatholic.org/pdf/dmm-booklet\\_web.pdf](https://www.sydneycatholic.org/pdf/dmm-booklet_web.pdf) Accessed Jan. 10, 2018.

<sup>11</sup> “Anti-discrimination complaint...” ABC News, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-28/anti-discrimination-complaint-an-attempt-to-silence-the-church/6810276> Sept. 28, 2015.

<sup>12</sup> “Discrimination case against Bishops withdrawn.” [https://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest\\_news/2016/201656\\_413.shtml](https://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2016/201656_413.shtml) May 6, 2016.

<sup>13</sup> Mr. Rodney Croome - Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group spokesman.

<sup>14</sup> “Croome encouraged parents to submit complaints...” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodney\\_Croome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodney_Croome) 2015. Accessed Jan. 10, 2018.

<sup>15</sup> “Commission to hear complaint...” <http://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/antidiscrimination-commission-to-hear-complaint-over-hobart-preacher-campbell-markhams-blogs/news-story/faf220e76fb3281419182fd1892df5a1> Aug. 7, 2017.

<sup>16</sup> “Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth”. Jeffery Satinover MD. Feb. 1996. Baker Publishing Group.

<sup>17</sup> “Casual sex among gay men a concern.” ABC News. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-17/hiv-rates-in-australia-remain-at-20-year-high/5602706> Jul. 2014.

<sup>18</sup> “Syphilis, gonorrhoea cases rise in Vic.” SBS News. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/syphilis-gonorrhoea-cases-rise-in-vic>. Jan. 12, 2017

## 4. Outcomes and Recommendations

**4.1** The preceding are just five examples out of thousands that are continually playing out all around the world today, with increasing events occurring here in Australia.

*"A new world order? The cultural revolution described.....is taking place behind people's backs-top-down. It emanates from the power elites and is propelled by minorities who define themselves by sexual orientation and seek to topple the world order"* <sup>19</sup>. What can we do to ensure that this blatant totalitarianism doesn't continue to take ground here in Australia?

Consider the Intersections between the enjoyment of freedom of religion and other human rights.

My desire is to protect religious freedoms and freedom of speech from encroachment as described, rather than granting rights to one group over another. I urge you to research widely to see what is actually happening locally and around the world.

**4.2** I believe the answer lay in the full implementation of the **ICCPR, Article 18.** <sup>20</sup>.

1. Everyone shall have the right to **freedom of thought, conscience and religion**. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and **in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.**

2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.

3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

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.** (Emphasis added to key components above).

There is a clear opportunity today for the Panel to rectify this situation for the benefit of future generations.

**Ladies and Gentlemen of the Panel, this is your mission: please preserve our fundamental freedoms.**

Thank You.

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<sup>19</sup>. Gabriele Kuby, "The Global Sexual Revolution: The Destruction of Freedom in the Name of Freedom." 2015. Page 290.

<sup>20</sup>. "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>