



CONDELL PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL INC.

29 LANCELOT STREET, CONDELL PARK NSW 2200

PHONE: (02) 9708-4530 FAX: (02) 9709-3632

EMAIL: christianschool@condellpark.nsw.edu.au

ABN: 29 726 939 936



1 August 2008

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Facsimile: 6277 5794

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Inquiry into the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984

As principal of this School, and representing the views of this School community, I implore that the relevant legislation be unaltered as the Act contains important safeguards and protections for Christian schools in Section 38, recognising our right to choose staff with an active commitment to the faith of the school. The current act is effective and correct.

A School that is conducted in accordance with God-given, Bible-based doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings would find it injurious to the adherents – especially children – if persons with conflicting beliefs and practices in respect to sexuality were employed to minister spiritually and educationally. It would be the antithesis of the ethos of this Christian School as it subscribed to a different philosophy of life and practice.

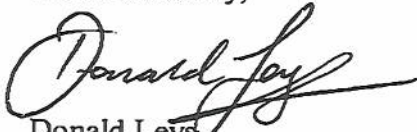
Christian Schools – such as this one – have been established in good faith to uphold the values and beliefs of the members of a Church community proceeding by faith according to God-given direction. The parent especially request for their children to be protected from the anti-God teachings and life styles. This they do in obedience to the Word of God.

We are aware that, on the other hand, beliefs and practices contrary to the God-given beliefs of this community are held by other individuals and organisations, but it is neither right nor reasonable to remove the capacity for a Christian School to discriminate on the basis of one's doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings and require a Christian School to employ such a person holding opposing beliefs and practices.

Freedom of religion is a right. An educational institution established for religious purposes should have a right to discriminate on the above-mentioned grounds to avoid injury to the children under its charge as a consequence of conflicting ungodly practices. I strongly believe that the existing exemptions reflected in Section 38 of the Act should be retained.

This submission is made in good faith seeking your thoughtful consideration. I can elaborate with specific case scenarios if it would be advantageous. Please know I can give more detail as necessary and if required.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Leys", written in a cursive style.

Donald Leys
Principal