



MEDIA RELEASE
TUESDAY 22nd January

NEW DATA: DISCRIMINATION IN FAITH BASED SCHOOLS UNDER FIRE

New data released by Equality Australia today has shown that nearly three quarters of Australians believe students and teachers at faith based schools should be legally protected from exclusion or firing on the basis of them being gay or transgender – including nearly 70% of Liberal voters.

If you had to choose between the two, which of the following positions would you most support? To what extent do you support that position?

		Total	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
Faith-based schools should be legally allowed to exclude students and fire teachers if they are gay or transgender	Support, but only a little	6%	8%	6%	6%	5%
	Somewhat support	10%	8%	14%	8%	9%
	Strongly support	4%	2%	7%	1%	6%
	Completely support	7%	5%	6%	4%	15%
	Total support		28%	23%	33%	19%
Students and teachers at faith-based schools should be legally protected from expulsion or firing on the basis of them being gay or transgender	Support, but only a little	6%	6%	8%	3%	4%
	Somewhat support	22%	19%	28%	10%	18%
	Strongly support	16%	17%	13%	24%	18%
	Completely support	28%	34%	18%	45%	25%
	Total support		72%	77%	67%	81%

With the senate inquiry well underway, and the Morrison Government’s Religious Freedoms bill set to be tabled mid February, Equality Australia is calling on the Federal Government to listen to the Australian people and ensure their proposed legislation removes state sanctioned discrimination against LGBTQ students and teachers.

“Australians believe in equality and fairness, not discrimination,” said Aram Hosie, Director of Engagement at Equality Australia.

“These results show Australians clearly oppose discrimination against LGBTQ students and teachers in faith based schools.



“Our research shows that almost three quarters of Australians believe students and teachers at faith-based schools should be legally protected from exclusion on the basis of them being gay or transgender.

“The Morrison Government must ensure their proposed Act does not allow for religious exceptionalism that leaves LGBTQ students and teachers vulnerable to discrimination.

“Nearly seventy percent of Liberal voters agree that LGBTQ students and teachers need to be protected. It’s time for Prime Minister Morrison to listen to his constituents about the need for change.

“Equality Australia has shared this data in our submission to the Inquiry. It is clear that Australians believe discrimination has no place in our schools or in our classrooms.

“Australians support equality for all LGBTQ students and teachers, and any attempts to legislate to protect religious freedom should not come at the expense of LGBTQ students and teachers’ wellbeing.

“Discrimination has no place in Australian politics. These ongoing debates condoning inequality and bigotry are shameful and must end.

“All students and teachers should be made to feel safe and secure at school, and we will be doing all we can to make sure no student or teacher fears being kicked out of school or treated badly for being who they are,” said Mr Hosie.

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