



Dear 

### Legislation to ban conversion practices in NSW

Thank you for writing to the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC about the *Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024*. Your correspondence was forwarded to me as responsibility for this matter falls within my portfolio.

The *Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024* passed the NSW Parliament on 22 March 2024 and received assent on 3 April 2024. This legislation is the fulfilment of an election commitment. The Act was carefully drafted to ban practices directed to changing or suppressing the sexual orientation or gender identity of individuals. Conversion and suppression practices are rejected by medical professionals and religious leaders because they are harmful, especially to children.

This legislation was developed in **consultation with Faith NSW** and representatives from all major denominations, including the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, Hindu Council of Australia and Australian National Imams Council.

As a result, our Act has **powerful protections for people of faith** that go far beyond the government's election commitments. At its core, the Act **protects** the expression of a religious belief, religious teachings or the expression that religious beliefs ought to be followed where these expressions are not directed to an individual to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity. This means that the Act:

- **Protects** the right to prayer
- **Protects** discussions between parents and their children about sexuality and gender
- **Protects** the general rules of religious orders, for example, the celibacy of priests
- **Protects** general school rules, such as uniform requirements.

And to be clear – the Act **does not**:

- Stop you from telling a young person not to have sex before marriage
- Stop you counselling a married person not to have an affair.

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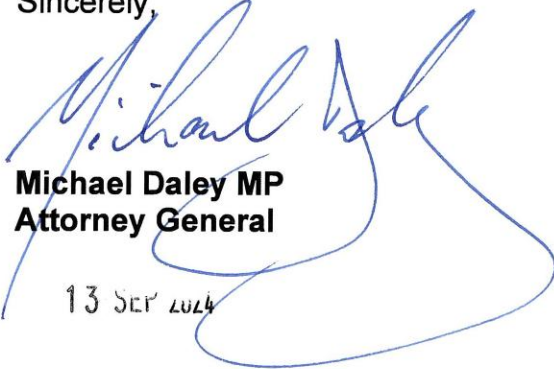
Faith NSW said this about the Act: *"While the Bill is not perfect, our communities' concerns have been heard and we consider this a genuine attempt... to balance the interests of many affected stakeholders."*

The NSW Government and its departments have worked with the many different organisations in both the faith and LGBTQ+ communities. The result is fair and balanced legislation.

The legislation has a delayed commencement of 12 months, so will come into force on 4 April 2025.

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important issue.

Sincerely,



**Michael Daley MP**  
**Attorney General**

13 SEP 2024

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