

Child Safe Organisations Bill 2024

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5th July 2024

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Email: cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Child Safe Organisations Bill 2024

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) is grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the *Child Safe Organisations Bill 2024* (hereafter, “the Bill”).

The vision of the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) is to see Christian principles and ethics influencing the way we are governed, do business, and relate to each other as a community. ACL seeks to see a compassionate, just and moral society through having the public contributions of the Christian faith reflected in the political life of the nation.

With around 250,000 supporters, ACL facilitates professional engagement and dialogue between the Christian constituency and government, allowing the Voice of Christians to be heard in the public square. ACL is neither party-partisan nor denominationally aligned. ACL representatives bring a Christian perspective to policy makers in Federal, State and Territory Parliaments.

The ACL fully supports the objectives of the Bill in implementing the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*. We commend the careful work that has gone into its preparation.

We have only one tiny contribution to make toward improvement. At the moment, Section 52 of the Bill says:

"The commission or head of the prescribed RCS entity may, be written notice, ask the director of public prosecutions or police commissioner for the following ... (3)(b) the worker's gender and date of birth."

Given that the word "gender" is now susceptible to different interpretation and in the interests of removing ambiguity, we suggest replacing "gender" with "sex". If, alternatively, the drafter's intention here was to refer to "gender identity" (which may, or may not, be relevant to correct identification of an individual) then we suggest that this should be included as well as (though not instead of) biological sex. Removing ambiguity on such important matters around child safety is important, and given that the lack of clarity around "gender" has caused bureaucratic confusion, it is necessary to remove this ambiguity by referring to "sex" rather than "gender".

Thank you for giving the following submission your careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Rob Norman.

Rob Norman
Queensland Director