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20 December 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Religious Discrimination Bill 2021

The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) advocates for social justice and represents not-for-profit community in the ACT. As a peak body we are invested in a Canberra, and an Australia, that is a just, safe and sustainable community in which everyone has the opportunity for self-determination and a fair share of resources and services.

I am writing to endorse Equality Australia's submission to this Inquiry and to echo their concerns that the Religious Discrimination Bill and its related bills will enable discrimination and hinder the work of regulatory bodies.

In its current iteration, the Bill removes existing protections for LGBTIQ+ people, women, people with disabilities and others when people make discriminatory statements based in or about religion.

We need fair and equal discrimination laws that protect all of us, equally, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability status. Unfortunately, the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 does not do this and so we cannot support this Bill and its related bills.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Campbell." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Dr Emma Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

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