

Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2019

Please note that we do not condone any form of abuse of anyone or by anyone.

We, the undersigned in our submission will be referring to the Recommendation 7.3 & 7.4 on the specific amendments of the Bill in issue and are opposed to the proposed amendment for the following reasons:

This Bill is in no way consistent with the practice of Freedom of Religion in our state. It not only affects the Priests/Ministers of Religion (Catholic/Greek Churches) but us the laity as it infringes our Freedom to confess with the assurance of confidentiality.

Why is there inadequate consultation with the Churches affected? Why are we not given the same opportunity as the other groups (out of home care workers, early childhood workers, school counsellors, registered psychologists). Why have we been singled out or discriminated?

Please be aware that the Catholic Church in Australia has taken steps by implementing safeguarding procedures in our churches.

Please reconsider the passing of this legislation.

Luanna Bong

Freddie Low