

PRAYER BRIEFING – FEBRUARY 2025

Colossians 3:12 – “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience”

Since our last prayer briefing

- The Misinformation and Disinformation Bill was withdrawn after intense lobbying
- Australian Human Rights Commission Amendment (Costs Protection) Act passed, which would increase insurance liabilities and costs for schools to defend discrimination claims
- The Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Bill 2024 passed federal parliament in just two days
- WA Government conducted closed-door consultation on an anti-therapy ‘conversion’ ban
- WA voters enter election period as state election will be held on March 8
- A Conversion Practises Bill in Tasmania’s Parliament is expected to be tabled soon

Give thanks to the Lord

- The Misinformation and Disinformation Bill, which would have captured legitimate, good-faith expression of religious, moral and political opinions on online platforms, was withdrawn following significant objections, including a joint response from 17 religious leaders and school groups, hundreds of policy groups’ submissions, and, finally, opposition from a majority of Senators.
- In this election year, some political parties are already foreshadowing a level of commitment to protect the ability of schools to actively choose staff who share, and live, the same Christian faith of our school communities.
- The stories of care and compassion in Christian schools in Tasmania in the Foundations for Faith survey have been published by the committee website of the Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools, which is due to report on 4 April 2025.

Ask the Lord

- That political candidates and the next federal Government respond favourably to legislative proposals from faith leaders to provide Christian and other religious schools with a ‘positive right’ to hire staff according to their ethos.
- That expected revisions to the Misinformation and Disinformation Bill (based on commitments by key MPs in both major parties) will not censor legitimate debate on contestable opinions.
- That the next WA government rejects Law Reform Commission WA proposals to take away the rights of parents to choose schools that prefer staff with a living Christian faith. Pray for the MyChristianSchool campaign to legislators and candidates in the WA election period.
- The Queensland Government and the NT Government would act on their commitments to repeal troubling legislation that has undermined freedoms for faith-based schools and communities.