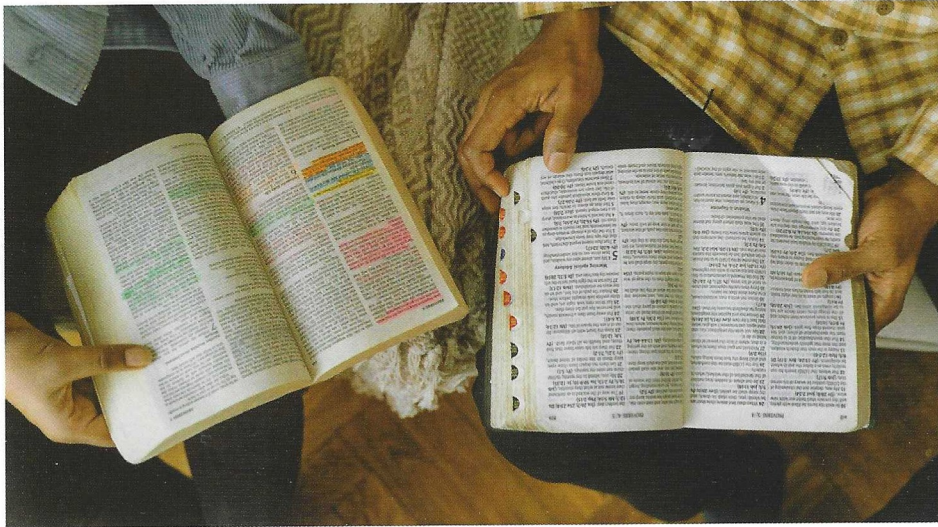


## Prayer Being Outlawed in NSW, Christians Warn

## People Need the Right to Defend Their Home



**The NSW Government has confirmed that certain prayers are now illegal under the Conversion Practices Ban Act, sparking widespread alarm among Christians about the erosion of religious freedom and the future of pastoral ministry.**

During a recent parliamentary committee hearing, Liberal MP Susan Carter asked Attorney-General Michael Daley whether the Act effectively places a “prohibition on prayer.” Daley conceded that while general prayer is not restricted, prayer directed at changing or suppressing a person’s sexuality or gender is now classified as an unlawful “conversion practice.”

“You can pray with a person and do all those sorts of things,” Daley told the committee. “But if you pray in a way that it becomes a sustained practice directed to a person with a view to

changing their sexual orientation or gender, that’s against the law.”

Ms Carter pressed the point: “With respect, isn’t prayer commonly about change of all sorts of things?”

Daley replied that pastoral prayers for strength and guidance are permitted, but what he dismissed as “pray the gay away” is banned. He later added that government has the authority to limit behaviour, including prayer, if it constitutes a prohibited practice.

The comments have unsettled many Christians, who fear that even private or silent prayer could fall under the law’s scope.

We’ve all heard the phrase, “a man’s home is his castle.” This idea underpins Castle Law—the principle that people have the right to defend their home and family without fear of legal punishment.

Castle Doctrine traces back to 1604, when Sir Edward Coke declared that “the house of everyone is to him as his castle and fortress.” For centuries, Western law and thought, shaped by figures such as Aquinas, Locke, and Jefferson, affirmed that self-defence is a natural right. The Bible also upholds this principle (Exodus 22:2–3), recognising both private property and the right to protect it.

Castle Law simply states: if someone breaks into your home intending harm, you may defend yourself, even with lethal force if necessary, without being treated as the criminal. Yet in Australia, there is currently no firm legal principle enshrining this right. Victims must not only survive the trauma of an invasion but also defend their actions in court, with the burden of proof often falling on the innocent.

Queensland is now leading the push to change this. An e-petition sponsored by Katter’s MP Nick Dametto has already gathered over 70,000 signatures, making it the 6th largest in state history.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



# Make Australia Godly Again

South Australian Christian pastor and local government councillor Andrew Craig says it's time to Make Australia Godly Again, and he has the ideal baseball cap to promote that message.

Andrew Craig's work as a Baptist leader and Playford City Councillor recently expanded to include the promotion of strikingly red caps emblazoned with the words: "Make Australia Godly Again".

Speaking exclusively to FamilyVoice Australia, Andrew Craig said he is impressed by the "MAGA" movement led by Christian conservatives in the United States, but he wants to promote a strong theme of spirituality relevant to Australia.

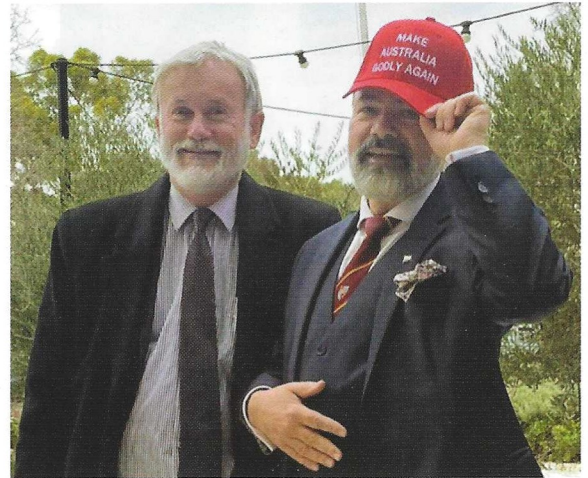
"Others have circulated caps emblazoned with the MAGA theme popular in the USA, but we are emphasising wisdom from Proverbs

14:34 - Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people," he said.

"I pray these caps will serve as a great conversation-starter and an opportunity for witness."

Pastor Andrew Craig is personally arranging the distribution of "Make Australia Godly Again" baseball caps, at \$30 each, including postage and handling, and he invites supporters to place their order by texting 0417 016 160.

"Now is the time to recognise



*Andrew Craig and David d'Lima with one of the "Make Australia Godly Again" caps*

Australia's Christian heritage and our excellent record of revival, so we stir the people to pray, and to receive and share the hope of the Gospel in our land."

## NT Heading in the Wrong Direction

FamilyVoice Australia has raised alarm over new laws in the Northern Territory, warning they could become the most restrictive in the nation when it comes to the rights of faith-based schools to employ staff who share their values.

The Country Liberal Party (CLP) recently introduced the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill 2025, which they claim is designed to restore freedom of speech and religion eroded under the former Labor government. But faith leaders and Christian organisations say the legislation fails to deliver on key promises.

While the bill permits schools to hire staff of their own faith, it does not allow schools to consider whether teachers live consistently with those beliefs outside of work hours. Critics argue this omission undermines the very ethos faith-based schools seek to uphold.

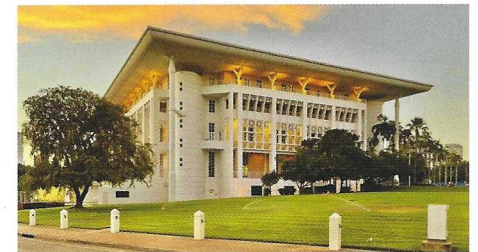
Bishop Michael Stead has warned that the proposal is "a really complete failure to deliver on an election

commitment."

"It's very concerning what's been proposed," Bishop Stead said. "The Country Liberal Party committed that they would restore the freedoms of speech and the freedom of religion that had been undercut by the previous government. What's being restored is nothing like what was there before, and, in fact, it's probably the most restrictive definition, particularly as it applies to schools, anywhere in the country."

FamilyVoice National Director Peter Downie echoed these concerns, calling the bill "a step backward at a time when we urgently need progress."

"Faith-based schools exist to provide an education shaped by their values," Mr Downie said. "If teachers are not expected to live by those values outside



the classroom, then the authenticity of the whole mission is undermined. Parents who choose these schools do so because they want their children to see faith lived out consistently."

The introduction of the bill follows a three-year advocacy campaign by Christian leaders and school groups to reverse the controversial changes made under the previous Labor government. Yet many now fear the CLP's reforms could entrench restrictions even further.

"Instead of restoring genuine freedoms, this bill risks leaving the Northern Territory with the harshest laws in Australia," Mr Downie warned.



# NSW Court Rules Truthful Speech “Vilification”

Women’s advocate Kirralie Smith and her organisation Binary could face penalties of up to \$200,000 after a New South Wales court ruled that referring to male-born soccer players as “men” amounted to unlawful vilification.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Sharon Freund handed down two lengthy judgments, finding that Smith unlawfully vilified players Stephanie Blanch and Riley Dennis in a series of social media posts made in 2023.

“I am satisfied that the defendant unlawfully vilified the plaintiff... when she referred to the plaintiff as a male or a man,” Magistrate Freund wrote.

Smith, who is Director of Binary, may also be required to issue public apologies and implement compliance programs affirming that men can become women.

The rulings follow last week’s separate Court of Appeal decision upholding a two-year apprehended violence order (AVO) against Smith, restricting her from posting content about Blanch.

In her posts, Smith questioned the fairness of male-born athletes competing in female divisions,

describing one player as “a bloke in a frock” and asking why there was a women’s competition “if anyone is a woman.” The court concluded such comments could incite “severe contempt” or “hatred” under section 38S of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

FamilyVoice National Director Peter Downie said the outcome sets a disturbing precedent.

“Speaking biological truth is now being treated as hate speech,” Mr Downie said. “This ruling doesn’t just silence Kirralie Smith, it sends a chilling warning to every Australian who dares to state that men are male and women are female.”

Mr Downie added that the case highlights the growing clash between ideology and reality: “Laws should be grounded in truth. If courts punish people for acknowledging biological facts, then freedom of speech and freedom of conscience are under



*Kirralie Smith: “It is true speech... penalised because of hurt feelings”*

direct threat.”

Smith herself said the judgment is “an extremely disappointing result.”

“Women are being forced to accept males in their spaces, services and sport without the ability to object. To object is to be penalised,” she said. “This is not just free speech at risk; it is true speech being penalised because of hurt feelings.”

Smith vowed to continue her campaign for fairness in women’s sport, insisting that “man-made laws can never trump the laws of nature.”

## Prayer Being Outlawed in NSW, Christians Warn

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FamilyVoice National Director Peter Downie said the Attorney-General’s remarks confirm the worst fears of faith communities.

“For the first time in NSW, the government is drawing a line between lawful prayer and unlawful prayer,” Mr Downie said. “That is deeply troubling. Prayer is at the heart of the Christian life, and to criminalise certain prayers is an attack on religious freedom itself.”

Mr Downie warned that the legislation could create a chilling effect on pastoral care: “When parents or pastors fear prosecution for praying with someone who asks for help, something has gone terribly wrong in a supposedly free society.”

He also drew comparisons to cases in the United Kingdom, where Christians have been arrested for silently praying near abortion clinics. “This is not alarmism, it’s already happening overseas. NSW is now on

the same dangerous path.”

Despite government assurances, uncertainty remains over what prayers are lawful. Anti-Discrimination NSW has confirmed that while general prayer is permitted, any attempt to influence sexuality or gender identity is prohibited.

“This law has left Christians in a state of confusion,” Mr Downie said. “Freedom of prayer and conscience are being replaced with state control, and that should concern every Australian.”



# Australia's Fading Faith vs America's Religious Revival

**While America's President Donald Trump champions religious freedom and some Christian ideals, Australia is witnessing a troubling decline in faith and strong leadership. The stark contrast between the two nations highlights a critical need for our own leaders to defend our Christian heritage.**

Speaking at the Museum of the Bible, Trump stated, "when faith gets weaker, our country seems to get weaker. When faith gets stronger... good things happen for our country."

"As President, I will always defend our nation's glorious heritage. And we will protect the Judeo-Christian principles of our founding. And we will protect them with vigour. We have to bring back religion in America. Bring it back stronger than ever before. To have a great nation, you have to have religion. I believe that so strongly. There has to be something after we go through all of this. And that something is God," he said.

The President's actions, including the establishment of the Religious Liberty Commission, show a profound commitment to restoring faith that will encourage millions of Americans who feel that Christianity is under attack, according to FamilyVoice WA Director Darryl Budge.

"This bold stand for Judeo-Christian principles and religious liberty is a far cry from growing political silence on the importance of the Christian faith," Mr Budge said.

The latest Australian census data reveals a concerning trend of fading

belief: less than 45% of Australians now identify as Christian, a sharp contrast to the United States, where over 60% of the population holds Christian beliefs.

"This is deeply concerning because our nation cannot remain strong without a strong moral compass rooted in the Word of God."

He continued, "We've seen what happens when we abandon Christian principles—the family unit is weakened, religious freedoms are eroded, and our children are increasingly exposed to destructive anti-Christian ideologies in schools.

"The Trump administration's efforts to promote traditional families, truth in gender and elevate some Christian values, including the value of the unborn, are the kind of leadership Australia needs. The President's recent announcement of new guidance protecting the right to prayer in public schools and the 'America Prays' initiative are powerful symbols of his commitment. While critics may point to a lack of detail, the message is clear: for a nation to thrive again, it must turn back to the Christian faith that founded it. The future of our nation depends on it."



## People need the right to defend their home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Similar petitions have begun in New South Wales (John Ruddick MLC) and Victoria (David Limbrick MP).

The aim of Castle Law is not to promote violence; it is to protect the innocent. Violence begins when criminals invade a home. Law-abiding parents should not live in fear of prosecution for defending their children. Good law ought to shield the victim, not empower the aggressor.

Castle Law restores balance, ensuring that mums and dads can protect their families without hesitation or fear of legal reprisal. As John Locke put it, "Self-defence is a part of the law of nature."

Australians are demanding that our laws reflect this truth. It's time to protect the innocent, not punish them.

You can support Castle Law by signing your state's petition and thanking the MPs standing up for families and freedom:

4

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Printed in Australia by Adelaide Business Bureau,  
2A George Street, Hindmarsh SA 5000

Donations to FamilyVoice Australia are not tax deductible.

# FamilyVoice

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**50 YEARS**

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