

## IOC moves to protect fairness in women's sport

BY PETER DOWNIE, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, FAMILYVOICE AUSTRALIA

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced a major new policy restricting eligibility for female Olympic competition to biological females, using a one-time SRY gene screening test as part of the standard for entry to women's category events from the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

The policy follows a lengthy review of sex-based performance differences and is expected to influence international sport well beyond the Olympic movement, such as world athletics meets and discussion ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.

Medical and scientific evidence cited in reporting on the decision says male puberty confers significant advantages in strength, speed and endurance, and the IOC says the presence of the SRY gene is evidence of male sex development relevant to female category eligibility.

FamilyVoice Australia has welcomed the decision as a step toward restoring fairness and protecting women and girls in sport.

National Director Peter Downie said the ruling reflects what many Australians have long understood.

"Women's sport exists to provide a fair and safe arena for female athletes," Mr Downie said. "In some sports, the biological male advantage exceeds 20



*In some sports, the biological male advantage over females exceeds 20 per cent*

per cent, and in contact events, the size and weight differences pose safety risks to female competitors."

The decision follows years of controversy, including cases at recent Olympic Games where athletes with male biology competed in women's events and won medals. The new policy aims to prevent a repeat of such situations.

Support for sex-based protections in female sport has also been voiced by current Australian parliamentarians. South Australian Liberal Senator Leah Blyth said in 2025 that Australia needs "nationally consistent rules" to protect the integrity of girls' school sport and argued that inclusion should not come at the expense of fairness or safety.

In Queensland, Katter's Australian Party leader Robbie Katter moved a parliamentary motion declaring that allowing biological males to play in female sport erodes the integrity of female sport and women's rights, while

KAP MP Nick Dametto said the issue was about protecting women's sport. Queensland MP Steve Andrew also supported that motion and told parliament it was about women's right to compete fairly.

Mr Downie said the IOC's move is an encouraging sign that common sense and scientific reality are reasserting themselves.

"This is about more than sport," he said. "It reflects a broader need to uphold truth in public life. When we deny biological reality, it is women, families, and society who ultimately pay the price."

FamilyVoice Australia continues to advocate for policies that uphold the integrity of women's sport, protect children and recognise biological reality in law and public policy.

"This decision is a win for fairness," Mr Downie said, "but there is still much work to be done to defend family, faith and freedom in Australia."

# Antic warns freedoms are at risk due to ASIO power grab

The Albanese government's latest expansion of ASIO powers has passed the House of Representatives with broad Coalition support.

FamilyVoice WA Director Darryl Budge said that the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025 will seriously undermine freedom as it would make permanent ASIO's compulsory questioning powers by removing the existing sunset clause.

"When governments ask for extraordinary powers, Parliament should be strengthening safeguards and oversight, not weakening them," Mr Budge said.

The Labor bill passed the House of Representatives, 106 to 8, with support from most Liberal, National and LNP MPs. Among those voting in favour were Angus Taylor and Andrew Hastie. Bob Katter and Barnaby Joyce were among eight non-Labor MPs who abstained from the vote.

Senator Alex Antic said he will vote against the bill because it "threatens to limit the legal protections of Australians

in their interactions with ASIO, while simultaneously reducing oversight of their extraordinary powers."

He warned that the powers in question are far from routine. "I do not use the word 'extraordinary' flippantly," he said.

ASIO's compulsory questioning powers allow the agency to compel people, including individuals age 14 and above who are not suspected of any crime, to appear for questioning and produce materials. When these powers were first introduced in 2003, they were deliberately made temporary and subject to regular parliamentary review through a sunset clause.

Senator Antic said the removal of that safeguard is deeply significant. "This new bill seeks to do away with that sunset clause, in effect baking in this power by turning it from 'temporary' to 'permanent'," he said.

Mr Budge said this should



**Darryl Budge and Senator Alex Antic, who rejects the bill**

concern every Australian who values accountable government.

"A temporary power introduced in exceptional times should not quietly become a permanent feature of Australian law," he said.

"If Parliament allows emergency-style powers to become normalised, Australians will lose important protections bit by bit."

Senator Antic pointed out that heightened public fear cannot justify making these powers permanent.

"In a state where freedom is over-prioritised at the expense of security, the result is anarchy. In a state where security is over-prioritised at the expense of freedom, the result is totalitarianism and tyranny," he said.

## Northern Territory moves closer to legalising assisted suicide

The NT Government is drafting a bill to legalise assisted suicide, which is expected to be tabled by mid-2026.

NT Attorney General Marie-Claire Boothby has announced that the bill will restrict access to adults suffering from advanced, progressive illnesses expected to lead to death within 12 months, will require two independent medical assessments to confirm eligibility, and prohibiting doctors from initiating conversations about assisted suicide.

FamilyVoice Australia has raised serious concerns about the broader direction of the legislation, warning that even with safeguards, the normalisation of assisted suicide undermines the value of human life.

South Australia and Northern Territory State Director David d'Lima said the proposal represents a significant moral turning point.

"Once the state sanctions assisted suicide, it sends a dangerous message

that some lives are no longer worth living," Mr d'Lima said. "No set of safeguards can fully protect the elderly, the disabled, or those who feel like a burden."

The Northern Territory has a unique history on this issue. It was the first jurisdiction in the world to legalise euthanasia in 1995, before federal legislation overturned the law in 1997. That restriction was lifted in 2022, allowing territories once again to legislate in this area.

Mr d'Lima warned that overseas experience should serve as a cautionary tale.

"We are told these laws will be rare and tightly controlled," he said. "But in places like Canada, eligibility has expanded dramatically over time. What begins as an option for the terminally ill

can quickly become something much broader."

He also emphasised that the real need is for better care, not assisted death.

"A compassionate society does not offer death as a solution to suffering," Mr d'Lima said. "We should be investing in palliative care, mental health support, and strengthening families, not facilitating suicide."

The bill is expected to be debated later this year, with members granted a conscience vote.

FamilyVoice is urging lawmakers to reject the proposal and instead uphold policies that protect life at every stage.

"This is ultimately about who we are as a society," Mr d'Lima said. "Will we choose to care for the vulnerable or abandon them?"

# Deeming's big win reveals concerning disconnect

**FamilyVoice Australia and its supporters are concerned by the desperate attempts of senior Victorian Liberal figures to remove Moira Deeming from the top position on the Liberal Party ticket in the Western Metropolitan Region.**

Ms Deeming was replaced by businessman Dinesh Gourisetty, reportedly aligned with the party's left faction and former leader John Pesutto. Mr Pesutto was previously found liable for defamation against Ms Deeming after linking her to extremist protesters who gate-crashed a rally she attended. The Liberal Party controversially provided Mr Pesutto with a \$1.55 million loan to cover damages.

Victorian State Director Alan Barron said the initial preselection decision demonstrated the growing disconnect between the Liberal Party and its traditional supporters.

"This appears to be a coordinated effort to sideline a pro-life, pro-family voice within the party," Mr Barron said. "It represents a serious misunderstanding of mainstream voters who supported Ms Deeming because she had the courage to stand firm on issues like free speech, women's rights, and parental authority."

Mr Barron praised Ms Deeming's leadership and conviction.

"Moira Deeming has shown rare courage in public life. She stood firm under intense pressure and spoke clearly on issues many others avoid. That kind of integrity should be



**Moira Deeming MP finally won the preselection**

recognised, not pushed aside."

In a dramatic development, Mr Gourisetty then withdrew his candidacy after it was revealed he provided a character reference for a now-convicted child sex offender. Liberal leader Jess Wilson reportedly refused to have him in the party room, and a new ballot will now be held. The new ballot was won by Deeming after all other contenders withdrew.

Mr Barron said Deeming's restoration presents an opportunity for the Liberal Party to reconsider its direction.

"One can only hope the party has recognised its mistake and will now choose candidates who reflect the values of family, faith, and freedom.

"If the Liberal Party continues to abandon its base, voters will look elsewhere, as we've already seen in South Australia. Decisions like this will only drive support towards minor parties such as One Nation."

Mr Barron said the situation highlights a broader concern.

"There is a growing perception that the party is being influenced by forces out of step with its traditional values. Unless that changes, its future remains uncertain."

## Strong pro-life witness on the Sunshine Coast

**With strong promotion and clear purpose, the Queensland Pro-Life Coalition held a well-attended rally on the Sunshine Coast on Saturday 28 March 2026.**

Hundreds of supporters gathered to stand for the protection of unborn life and to call for the repeal of the Queensland Government's controversial "gag" motion, introduced in December 2024, which has restricted debate on abortion law reform.

The event was well organised, with Australian Christian Lobby's Daniel Adsett providing a large marquee, stage, and sound equipment in a prominent park location. This created a welcoming and visible presence for both speakers and attendees.

FamilyVoice Australia played a key role in the rally, both in its promotion and through its contribution on the day. Representing FamilyVoice, speakers highlighted the urgent need to defend the sanctity of life, while also calling on Christians to remain engaged, informed, and active in the public square. The FamilyVoice message was clear: the fight

for life is far from over, and faithful, consistent advocacy is essential.

A range of organisations were represented, including Cherish Life, Australian Christian Lobby, Answers in Genesis, Pro-Life Health Professionals, and Church and State, alongside a supportive local minister. Each speaker delivered concise five-minute addresses, creating a focused and impactful series of presentations.

A highlight of the morning was the attendance of Katter's Australian Party MP Robbie Katter. His presence sent a strong signal that there are still elected representatives willing to publicly stand for life. Mr Katter reaffirmed his commitment to protecting the unborn and encouraged supporters to continue making their voices heard, both within their communities and directly to their MPs.



**Robbie Katter MP and Andrew McCall speaking at the rally on March 28**

While rallies alone do not change laws, they play an important role in building momentum and demonstrating that community concern remains strong.

Queensland MPs have been put on notice: the protection of innocent life in the womb will not be forgotten.

The Pro-Life Coalition is now calling on pastors and Christian leaders to gather at Queensland Parliament on 9 April for prayer and intercession from 2-4pm and is urging all Queenslanders to contact their local MPs. The group's message is simple and clear: life matters, and voters are watching.

# Public protest under threat in WA

The WA Labor government is pushing a bill that should concern every citizen who values freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, according to FamilyVoice Australia.

The Public Order Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 would amend the Public Order in Streets Act 1984 and give police wider powers to refuse, amend or revoke protest permits on new grounds linked to “harassment”, “animosity”, and public safety considerations.

FamilyVoice WA Director Darryl Budge warns, “Although the government presents the bill as a response to racism, extremism and intimidation, its wording is broad enough to capture peaceful public events that express moral or religious convictions on contested issues such as sexuality and gender.

“This matters because churches, Christian ministries and family-focused organisations sometimes hold street outreach, prayer rallies, marches and public gatherings that some activists may label ‘offensive’ or ‘hateful’.

Under this bill, police would be given the ability to judge whether the message or likely reaction to an event creates prohibited “animosity” towards people on protected grounds.

“That subjective judgement is a dangerous shift,” Mr Budge said. “It risks turning law enforcement into an arm of political censorship, depending on the ideology of the government of the day.”

The strongest parliamentary warning came from Liberal MLC Hon Nick Goiran, who led for the opposition in the Legislative Council.

Mr Goiran said that the Opposition asked the government whether any religious organisations had been consulted about this bill, and to which Attorney General Tony Buti had replied, “Religious groups were not consulted”.

The Liberal MLC moved that the bill be discharged and referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation, reflecting concern that Parliament should not rush sweeping restrictions on public assembly without proper examination.

That motion was also supported by the Greens. Sophie McNeill MLC backed the referral, saying, “we do not understand how on earth the government comes out of two horrific terrorist attacks with legislation that restricts our right to peacefully protest.”

She further described the bill in its current form as “another example of the Labor Party’s extremely broad and clumsy drafting that impacts our basic rights.”

Australian Christians MLC Maryka Groenewald has also spoken out against such measures that undermine civil liberties and freedom of religion.



Nick Goiran and Maryka Groenewald are concerned about this bill

Debate on the bill will resume after June 18, when the upper house committee’s report is due.

FamilyVoice is also aware that Dr Brian Walker MLC is drafting a private member’s bill on so-called conversion therapy and a separate bill to repeal Section 73(3) of the Equal Opportunity Act, which, if removed, would severely restrict how Christian schools practise curriculum control, remove employment exemptions, and expose Christian schools to legal action.

Maryka Groenewald MLC has launched an urgent e-petition supporting Christian schools, which calls on the Government to have meaningful consultation with faith-based organisations and schools, and to respect the right of these schools and organisations to make staffing and community life decisions in accordance with their sincerely held beliefs.

*WA residents may sign this online parliamentary e-petition until May 18, 2026 via the link [rb.gy/kp17f2](https://rb.gy/kp17f2)*

## EXTRACTS

Articles or extracts from this magazine may be used for other publications, provided that the reprint includes the following notice:

“Reprinted by permission of FamilyVoice Australia, 4th Floor, 68 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000.”

We seek to proclaim the goodness and truth of the Triune God as revealed in His Holy Word the Bible, in the person of Jesus Christ, God the Son, and in creation. We promote God’s wise ways for a healthy society where marriage is honoured, human life is respected, families can flourish and fundamental freedoms are enjoyed.