

Reform urgent after Giggle case ruling

The Coalition has pledged to amend Australia's Sex Discrimination Act following the Federal Court's dismissal of an appeal in the high-profile *Giggle v Tickle* case.

The case centred on the women's-only social media platform Giggle for Girls, founded by Sall Grover. In 2024, the Federal Court ruled that the platform had unlawfully discriminated against transgender-identifying male Roxanne Tickle after access to the app was denied.

The Full Federal Court dismissed Ms Grover's appeal and upheld aspects of a cross-appeal by Ms Tickle. The Court also increased the damages awarded to \$20,000.

The ruling has reignited debate over the protection of women's single-sex spaces and the meaning of sex under Australian law.

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor responded by announcing that a future Coalition government would amend the Sex Discrimination Act to define sex according to biological reality.

"We will define biological sex in the Act, male or female, the sex you are born," Mr Taylor said. "We will protect single-sex spaces across Australian life."

Nationals MP Alison Penfold has also introduced a private member's bill seeking to clarify the definitions of "sex" and "gender identity" and strengthen



Sen. Matthew Canavan, Sen. Alison Penfold and Sall Grover at a press conference announcing Alison Penfold's amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act

protections for single-sex facilities and activities.

FamilyVoice Australia National Director Peter Downie said the case highlighted growing concerns about the erosion of long-standing legal protections for women and girls.

"This decision demonstrates the urgent need for Parliament to provide clarity in the law," Mr Downie said.

"Australians have traditionally understood that women and girls should be able to access private spaces, services and activities based on biological sex. When legislation creates uncertainty around these protections, it is appropriate for elected representatives to revisit the law."

Mr Downie said the debate should be conducted respectfully while recognising the legitimate rights and concerns of women, parents and families.

"Every person should be treated with dignity and respect, but laws must also recognise biological reality and protect vulnerable groups," he said.

The proposed legislative reforms are expected to generate significant debate in Federal Parliament in the months ahead as questions surrounding sex, gender identity, parental rights and freedom of association continue to be contested across Australia.

FamilyVoice will continue to monitor developments and advocate for policies that uphold family, faith, freedom and the protection of women and children.



Watch FamilyVoice's interview with Sall Grover at [FB.com/FamilyVoiceAustralia/reels](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceAustralia/reels) or via Youtube: rb.gy/xqrxo5

Turning the tide for unborn life

The Lower House of South Australia's Parliament recently rejected a bill to restrict late-term abortion, but its success in the Upper House indicates the tide is turning to protect unborn babies, according to FamilyVoice.

"I thank God for the ground-breaking action of pro-life MPs who have the 'whip hand' in the Upper House, and I pay tribute to Hon Sarah Game who leads the fight against abortion," said FamilyVoice SA Director David d'Lima.

"Although we are appalled by Lower House MPs who rejected this proposal, the recent election of pro-life One Nation parliamentarians has enabled a superb result in the Upper House, giving tremendous hope that the tide is turning to protect unborn babies."

Introduced by Sarah Game (who recently joined Family First), the Restrictions on Terminations after 24 weeks and 6 days Amendment Bill gained Upper House approval (10 votes to 9) on 17th June, while pro-life supporters braved the rain and rallied outside.

The bill received support from Cory Bernardi, Rebecca Hewett and Carlos Quaremba (newly elected One Nation Legislative Councillors), Clare Scriven and Tung Ngo (both from the Labor Party), and Liberals Nicola Centofanti, Ben Hood, Dennis Hood and Heidi Girolamo; Laura Henderson (in favour of the bill) was paired with her Liberal colleague Michelle Lensink.

The bill went immediately to the House of Assembly, sponsored by One Nation's Chantelle Thomas, but after only two hours of debate (with just twelve MPs speaking) merely 9 out of 47 voted in favour. Supporters of the proposal included all four One Nation Lower House MPs, Premier Peter Malinauskas and Opposition Leader Ashton Hurn.

"However, remarks to the media by Mr Malinauskas and Mrs Hurn that 'abortion should be safe, legal and

rare' are totally unacceptable," David d'Lima said.

"Political leaders cannot call abortion 'safe' as it kills the little one and wounds its mother, nor should they collude with the legal fiction that somehow justifies what we all know is crude birth-control."

Of additional concern on that day was parliamentary approval of legislation enabling parents to identify as Mother or Father or Co-parent on birth certificates.

"This enables a man to identify as the child's mother, or a woman as its father, on the most important civic document," David d'Lima said.

"Disturbingly, we see fictitious legal assertions endorsed by politicians who have abandoned the defence of truth and pay no attention to reality."

Threat to religious freedom in Australia

Australians are still waiting for the promised legislation that will protect their right to religious belief and the right to practice and live out their faith in their everyday lives, observes FamilyVoice's NSW spokesman.

According to FamilyVoice Director for NSW and ACT Graeme Mitchell, "These promises were first made almost ten years ago when the Marriage Act was broadened to include unions apart from those between a biological man and a biological woman.

"Yet these promises have still not resulted in protection of religious freedom, while the pressure on Christian churches, on Christian schools and on individual Christians has continued to mount."

Mr Mitchell has drawn attention to this problem anew because of the wider significance of Bill C-9 that was passed by the Canadian Parliament on 17th June 2026 and is now the Combatting Hate Act. Before Bill

C-9 became law, opponents in Canada had named it the 'Bible Ban Bill'.

Mr Mitchell explained that governments, in Western nations especially, have been engaged in a sustained effort to outlaw hate speech, despite the fact that hate speech is usually poorly defined in law and that, most importantly, such laws have unintended impacts on religious freedom.

He added, "It is possible that those impacts were known from the outset, but conveniently ignored. Either way, according to Canadian Conservative Party MP Brad Redekopp, the passage of Bill C-9 was a 'dark day for Canada and religious freedom and an assault on faith.' This is because Bill

C-9 removes part of Criminal Code Section 319 which protects the good-faith expression of religious views based upon religious texts such as the Bible."

Mr Mitchell recalled events in Australia in April 2018 when footballer Israel Folau was asked what God's plan for homosexuals was. His reply, 'Hell... unless they repent of their sins and turn to God' proved to be very controversial. Folau later elaborated on his initial response, writing that hell is 'God's plan ... for all sinners, according to my understanding of my Bible teachings, specifically 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.'

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Queensland 'shaped by those who show up'

More than 400 Christians gathered in Brisbane for the Church and State Conference hosted by Dave Pellowe on 12–13 June, hearing a strong call for believers to engage in public life and stand for truth in the political arena.

The conference featured a range of high-quality speakers addressing issues of faith, culture, religious freedom, and the protection of human life.

Noting the strong attendance and the high calibre of questions put to the politicians, Andrew McColl of FamilyVoice Queensland observed that “the future of Australia, and each state, is shaped by those who show up.”

Questions about the growing momentum of the pro-life movement across Australia were put to the politicians.

During a time for questions, One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts told attendees he would like to see his party move towards a stronger pro-life position.

“One Nation needs to reconsider some things on abortion,” Senator Roberts said. “We should move to a blanket ban.”

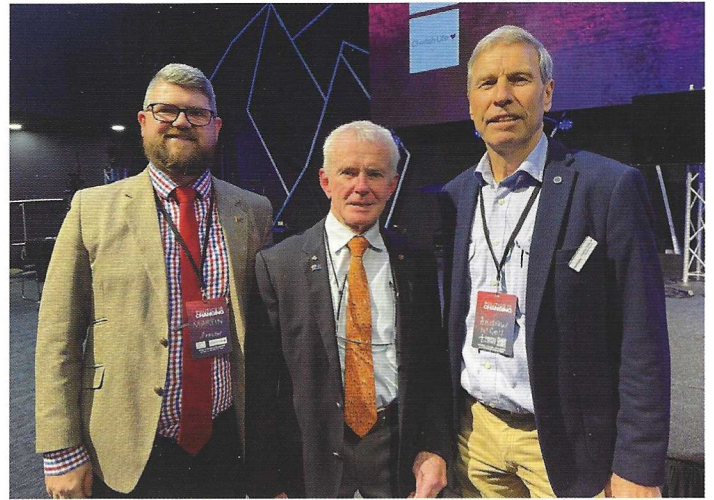
McColl welcomed the increasing willingness of political leaders to speak openly about the value of human life.

“Australians are becoming increasingly concerned about the loss of respect for human life,” Mr McColl said. “When nearly 90,000 unborn babies lose their lives each year, Christians cannot remain silent.”

Mr McColl encouraged believers to become actively involved in political parties and community advocacy.

“Politics isn’t always tidy, but Christians have a responsibility to be salt and light. Power often flows to those who take responsibility. If we want better laws and stronger protections for families and unborn children, we need more Christians willing to participate.”

A major focus of the conference was the work of the Queensland Coalition for Life (QCL), which has become one of the most effective and unified pro-life networks in



Sen Malcolm Roberts (centre) with FamilyVoice's spokesmen Martin Proctor and Andrew McColl

the state.

Bringing together churches, Christian organisations, advocacy groups and concerned individuals, QCL has played a key role in mobilising grassroots support for life issues, engaging with MPs, coordinating public events, and educating Queenslanders about abortion legislation and alternatives that support both mothers and babies.

“The Queensland Coalition for Life demonstrates what can happen when Christians work together,” Mr McColl said. “Its growing influence is helping ensure that the voices of those who cannot speak for themselves are heard in the public square.”

As legislative battles continue across Australia, conference speakers repeatedly stressed that lasting cultural change will require prayer, persistence, and greater Christian engagement in every area of public life.

“The future will be shaped by those who show up,” Mr McColl said. “Christians have an opportunity to be a blessing to our nation by standing for faith, family and life.”

Fight to retain prayer in WA Parliament

A campaign to defend the Lord's Prayer in the WA Parliament called on supporters to act quickly as an important Christian and constitutional tradition comes under threat.

In June 2026, Bassendean Labor MP Dave Kelly asked the WA Legislative Assembly's inquiry into standing orders to abolish the daily Lord's Prayer and replace it with a minute of silence.

FamilyVoice WA Director Darryl Budge said, “FamilyVoice argues that the prayer does more than preserve ceremony. It sets a moral tone for parliamentary proceedings, reflects

institutional humility, and reminds elected representatives that Parliament is not the highest authority in shaping a just society. The campaign also points to Australia's constitutional heritage, which acknowledges “the blessings of Almighty God.”

“We know that support for retaining the prayer is not limited to conservative Christians. When a similar proposal

emerged in Victoria in 2024, a broad multifaith coalition helped successfully defend the practice. Catholic, Anglican, Muslim, Hindu, and Jewish leaders stood together to affirm the value of this tradition,” Mr Budge said.

FamilyVoice has urged Western Australians to make submissions to the inquiry and ask that the Lord's Prayer remain in the standing orders.

Victorian childcare crisis exposes serious failures in child protection

Victorian families are demanding answers following a series of alarming child safety failures that have rocked the state's early childhood education sector and exposed significant weaknesses in existing child protection systems.

Public concern intensified after former Melbourne childcare worker Joshua Brown was charged with more than 150 offences relating to the alleged abuse of infants and toddlers in his care. The shocking allegations prompted health authorities to recommend medical testing for more than 1,200 children and led to the closure of several childcare centres operated by major provider G8 Education.

The revelations have also focused attention on shortcomings within Victoria's Working with Children Check (WWCC) system.

FamilyVoice Australia Victorian State Director Alan Barron said the scandal represents a profound failure of government responsibility.

"The system has utterly failed Victorian families," Mr Barron said.

"Parents entrust childcare providers with their most precious responsibility, the care and protection of their children. They have every right to expect that appropriate safeguards are in place."

Investigations have revealed that some childcare workers who had been identified by regulators as presenting an unacceptable risk to children were nevertheless able to retain valid

Working with Children Checks due to administrative and legal gaps in the current system.

Under existing arrangements, formal criminal convictions are often required before a Working with Children Check can be revoked, allowing some individuals to continue working with children despite serious concerns having been raised.

"The fact that individuals identified as posing a risk could continue working around vulnerable children is deeply troubling," Mr Barron said.

"Child protection must always take priority over bureaucratic processes.

In response to the crisis, an independent Rapid Child Safety Review delivered 22 urgent recommendations aimed at strengthening protections for children and improving regulatory oversight.

The Victorian Government has announced more than \$42 million in funding to establish a new independent early childhood regulatory authority, strengthen mandatory reporting requirements, and improve information-sharing between screening agencies, regulators and childcare providers.

While welcoming efforts to strengthen protections, Mr Barron

said restoring public confidence will require more than legislative reform.

"Strong families depend on trustworthy institutions," he said.

"These events are a reminder that the safety and wellbeing of children must remain at the centre of public policy. Victorian families deserve better."

Mr Barron proposed, "How about parents, especially mothers, look after their own children, which many would prefer to do if they could afford it."

Threats to religious freedom in Australia

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Mr Mitchell said, "Unsurprisingly, Folau was subsequently accused of homophobia. The lesson to be learned from the treatment of Israel Folau eight years ago in Australia is that quoting the Bible publicly can land you in very hot water.

"If Australia follows the example of Canada's Combatting Hate Act, quoting the Bible publicly may soon result in a criminal conviction for hate speech, in addition to landing you in hot water in the public arena."

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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.

FamilyVoice
AUSTRALIA

FamilyVoice Australia Inc

4th Floor, 68 Grenfell St,
Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: 1300 365 965

Email: office@familyvoice.org.au