

Children Born Alive Bill introduced as calls grow to protect newborn babies

The Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2026 was introduced into the House of Representatives on Monday, 17 August, with renewed calls for Australian law to protect babies who survive attempted abortions.

The Bill, introduced by Llew O'Brien, would seek to ensure that babies born alive following an attempted abortion receive the same standard of medical care as any other newborn.

Speaking in Parliament, Mr O'Brien highlighted concerning Queensland health data.

"I was shocked to see that in 2023 there were 75 babies born alive after terminations."

He noted that the figure was more than three times the number recorded a decade earlier, when 22 babies were reported born alive following terminations.

"Any one is too many, but it was 22 and now it's 75."

Mr O'Brien also referred to previous health data presented during Senate consideration of similar legislation, which recorded hundreds of babies born alive following abortion over a ten-year period.

FamilyVoice National Director Peter Downie welcomed the introduction of the Bill and the growing willingness of parliamentarians to publicly speak for



the protection of vulnerable newborns.

"Every baby born alive deserves care, protection and the same recognition of their humanity as any other newborn," Mr Downie said. "This should not be a controversial principle, it is a basic test of compassion and human dignity."

A significant number of politicians and supporters gathered at Parliament House on the day, generating substantial media interest and renewed public attention to the issue.

Barnaby Joyce was among those speaking publicly in support of protecting babies born alive, arguing that political popularity should never take precedence over doing what is right.

While the Bill has now been

introduced, its future remains uncertain. There is no guarantee that it will proceed to debate or a vote.

Mr Downie said Australians who value the sanctity of human life should continue to pray and encourage their representatives to act with courage.

"The road ahead will not be easy, but we must not become discouraged," Mr Downie said. "FamilyVoice will continue standing for the dignity and protection of every human life, and we encourage Australians to pray for courage and compassion in our Parliament."

For FamilyVoice, the message remains clear: every child deserves protection, and every life is worthy of care.

A win at last for free speech in NSW

The NSW Government has rejected a key recommendation of the Sackar Review to expand criminal hate-speech laws beyond race. This is a welcome decision for freedom of speech and religious freedom.

The Government has decided not to extend the existing criminal offence of inciting racial hatred to cover additional protected attributes.

FamilyVoice NSW State Director Graeme Mitchell welcomed the decision, saying it recognises the serious implications that expanding criminal speech offences could have for fundamental Christian freedoms.

“There is a significant distinction between confronting genuine hatred, threats and intimidation and criminalising speech simply because it is offensive or unpopular.”

NSW Attorney-General Michael Daley acknowledged the difficult issues involved, noting that expanding the offence raises “complex questions about freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and the consistent application of the criminal law

across the community.”

Graeme Mitchell said this recognition was important.

“Discrimination and vilification laws in NSW already go too far. Expanding criminal offences on top of them would have made a bad situation worse.”

Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are essential protections for every Australian. They are particularly important when people express sincerely held Christian convictions or participate in difficult and contested public debates.

A free society must be able to distinguish between genuine threats, intimidation and incitement to violence, and speech that is merely considered offensive, controversial or unpopular. Once governments begin criminalising ideas and expression because someone finds them offensive, the boundaries of free speech become

increasingly uncertain.

The NSW Government has made clear that it remains opposed to hatred in all its forms. FamilyVoice agrees. But protecting Australians from genuine harm must be balanced with protecting the freedoms that allow us to speak, worship, disagree and participate openly in public life.

Graeme Mitchell said:

“We thank the NSW Government for resisting the expansion of these criminal offences and for recognising the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of religion. It is great to see the extensive efforts of FamilyVoice in this area over many years is bearing good fruit.”

This is an important win, but freedom must never be taken for granted. We must remain vigilant whenever laws threaten to turn offensive speech into criminal speech.

Queensland review opens door to restore fairness and freedom

Queensland's review of its human rights and anti-discrimination framework provides an important opportunity to protect freedom of religion, freedom of speech and the rights of Christian organisations to operate according to their beliefs.

In September 2024, the former Miles Labor Government passed the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act 2024. Some of its most contentious anti-discrimination provisions were scheduled to commence in July 2025.

Following the election of the LNP Government, implementation was paused after Christian organisations, including FamilyVoice, raised serious concerns about the potential impact on churches, Christian schools and employers seeking to uphold a Biblical worldview.

The legislation created significant uncertainty for organisations that maintain the Biblical understanding of the created distinction between male and female, marriage, sexuality and sexual morality.

The Queensland Government has

now announced an independent review of the state's human rights and anti-discrimination system. The review will examine the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Act 2019 and provisions of the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act 2024 that have not yet commenced.

FamilyVoice Queensland State Director Andrew McColl welcomed the review, saying:

“This review is an important opportunity to ensure Queensland's laws protect people from genuine discrimination without punishing Christians for holding and expressing orthodox Biblical beliefs.”

The review is particularly important because anti-discrimination laws should not become a mechanism for compelling churches, Christian

schools, charities or businesses to act contrary to their deeply held Christian convictions.

On 30 September, the King's Counsel conducting the review is expected to release a discussion paper and invite public submissions. FamilyVoice will prepare a detailed submission and keep Queensland supporters informed about opportunities to contribute.

Mr McColl said:

“FamilyVoice will continue to advocate for laws that protect both human dignity and fundamental freedoms. Queensland families should be free to live according to their convictions without fear that faithful Christian teaching will be treated as unlawful discrimination.”

This review demonstrates why Christian engagement in public policy matters. **CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE**

Protecting Christian freedoms in Victoria

Victoria's parliamentary inquiry into the recruitment methods and impacts of cults and coercive high-control groups has delivered its final report, containing 39 recommendations.

FamilyVoice supports protecting vulnerable people from coercive and controlling conduct, increasing community awareness and ensuring survivors receive appropriate support. However, the report raises serious concerns for Christian freedom.

Our principal concern is the proposal for a new offence relating to "coercive high-control groups", despite the conduct to be criminalised remaining undefined. The report refers the issue to the Victorian Law Reform Commission, with criminalisation proposed by 2029.

Without clear statutory definitions and strong safeguards, legitimate Christian churches and practices could potentially be caught through subjective interpretations of what constitutes coercive behaviour.

Victorian State Director of FamilyVoice, Alan Barron, said:

"Protecting people from genuine abuse and coercion is essential. But laws designed to target harmful conduct must never become a back door for regulating

orthodox Christian beliefs, teaching or pastoral practice."

The report recommends distinguishing organisations according to "behaviours rather than beliefs". Yet for Christians, beliefs and practices are inseparable. Faith necessarily shapes how churches worship, teach, disciple and care for their congregations.

FamilyVoice is also concerned about recommendations to review homeschooling. Homeschooling is a lawful educational choice and parents have a fundamental responsibility to direct the education of their children. It should not be treated with suspicion merely because some families may participate in Christian communities.

The report also proposes victim-survivor-led advisory bodies. While the experiences of survivors are important, Mr Barron cautioned:

"Any advisory body must include a genuinely broad range of voices, including representatives of mainstream

Christian churches and organisations such as FamilyVoice. Good policy requires balanced advice that protects both vulnerable people and Christian freedom."

Serious crimes such as assault, sexual offences and fraud are already illegal. The priority should be effective enforcement of existing laws, community education and properly resourced support for victims, not vague new offences that could have unintended consequences.

The Victorian Government now has six months to respond. FamilyVoice urges it to protect vulnerable Victorians while upholding the freedoms that allow Christians to worship, teach and live according to their convictions.

"Protecting vulnerable people and protecting Christian freedom are not competing objectives," said Mr Barron. "Victoria can and must do both."

With the Victorian election approaching in November, FamilyVoice will continue advocating strongly for Family, Faith and Freedom.

SA government shamed into releasing gender review

Media concern and political pressure recently "shamed" the South Australian government into releasing a review of the gender department at the Women's and Children's Hospital, after staff provided intervention to sexually confused children as young as 11 years old, without the psychiatric assessments required by the hospital's procedures.

"It was bad enough last year when the 'gender service' of the Women's and Children's Hospital allowed 22 children to receive radical intervention without the protocols mandated by the hospital," said FamilyVoice SA Director David d'Lima.

"But to make matters worse, the State government declined to reveal the findings of the inquiry into this appalling situation, citing patient confidentiality - until a political and media outcry shamed the government into revealing the recommendations."

Roughly sixteen months elapsed between the scandal and a release of the report's recommendations, including a finding that the problem was systemic, and not simply the fault of individual clinicians. Adopted recommendations include changes to governance, clinical

roles, peer support and transition arrangements between adolescent and adult services.

"But in a truly appalling development, the review recommended a chest-binder fitting service," David d'Lima said.

However, according to The Advertiser (18/8), the hospital will provide advice and support to female minors who identify as male and elect to undergo breast binding, but SA Health says a formal binding service is not being explored.

"Essentially the review exposed a failure of protocols, but it reinforces a breach of the laws of nature," David d'Lima said.

"The psychiatric assessment will make little difference to unconscionable governments who let so-called health services radically intervene, and bring

great harm to vulnerable adolescents, who are themselves victims of a gender-confused culture.

"Jurisdictions overseas are recognising it's totally unacceptable to intervene with surgery and hormonal drugs, as those procedures permanently damage confused young people who are in no position to give meaningful consent."

Directly after the release of report recommendations, Family First upper house MP Sarah Game moved to establish a Select Committee to examine the growing number of young people seeking services for gender dysphoria and sexual confusion.

Sarah Game said the inquiry will help ensure the systems supporting young people and families are "safe, evidence based and accountable".

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

The Hidden 35: Why should we care?

In a recent FamilyVoice Australia discussion released on YouTube, FamilyVoice WA Director Darryl Budge joined educational researcher Terry Harding and Daily Declaration editor Kurt Mahlborg to examine the Albanese Government's appointment of Aftab Malik as Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia and its response to his 54 recommendations.

The panel argues these moves create an unjustified preference for one religious group, lack transparency, and threaten Australian democratic principles.

Terry Harding contends the envoy was established despite surging anti-Semitic incidents—from a historic average of 230 annually to over 2,000 in 24 months following October 7—creating a “false equivalence” that appears politically motivated to court specific electorates. The speakers question why Islamophobia received special governmental attention when anti-Semitic hate crimes reached unprecedented levels.

The panel highlights a critical flaw: Malik's report acknowledges there is no universally agreed legal definition of “Islamophobia,” yet proposes broad legislative and institutional remedies spanning 12 public domains including education, media, and law enforcement. Recommendations cited include establishing May 15 as a national day against Islamophobia in schools, preferential advancement of Muslims into Australian Public

Service leadership roles, funding prayer rooms in sports clubs, and consulting Muslim advisory panels on counter-terrorism policy. Kurt Mahlborg warns the term “Islamophobia” is often weaponized to silence legitimate theological or cultural critiques of Islam.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the government endorsed approximately 35 of 54 recommendations, yet the official response document collapses these into four vague frameworks without specifying which recommendations were accepted or rejected. FOI requests by Mahlborg to agencies including ACARA revealed no formal documentation regarding curriculum implementation, suggesting announcements may have been premature or performative.

Harding warns that advancing public sector candidates based on religious affiliation may conflict with Section 116 of the Constitution prohibiting religious tests for public office. Mahlborg distinguishes between treating all people equally—a Christian value—and treating all religions as equal, affirming Australia's Judeo-Christian foundations.

The panel calls on supporters to demand transparency, halt preferential policies, and advocate for constitutional equality under the rule of law.



Go to [YouTube.com/FamilyVoiceAustralia](https://www.youtube.com/FamilyVoiceAustralia) to watch the discussion

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

FamilyVoice works across Australia to oppose harmful legislation, improve laws that need correction and ensure that Family, Faith and Freedom remain protected.

Please pray that Queensland's review will lead to laws that uphold justice, protect freedom and allow families, churches and Christian organisations to flourish.

SA government shamed into releasing gender review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

However, the upper house in early 2024 rejected a similar inquiry when Labor and the Greens defeated the proposal, and the motion by Sarah Game is unlikely to succeed.

4

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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.

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