**The Catholic Weekly ELECTION 2022 GUIDE**

IN THE 13 March 2022 edition of The Catholic Weekly, the voting for the Common Good election guide contributed to by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney’s Justice and Peace Office was highlighted. It deals with issues such as aged care, disability, mental health, refugees and asylum seekers, Indigenous Australians, housing affordability and caring for our common home and is available at justic平安e.org.au/ election-2022/. The statement is available at catholic.org.au.

To supplement these guides, the below considers the policies of the two major parties and two minor parties in relation to the freedom of religious speech, refugee, euthanasia and the fate of babies born alive after an attempted abortion.

Our hope is that using these three guides together will assist you in casting your vote in next week’s election.

### The Liberal Party

- **Does the party support the introduction of a Religious Discrimination Bill?**
  - Yes, in the same form as originally introduced to Parliament.

- **Does the party support religious organisations, including schools, preferring staff of their own faith?**
  - Yes, and will seek to override state laws preventing this (but only for religious educational institutions).

- **Will the party’s proposal to remove so-called ‘discrimination’ against LGBT students affect the ability of religious schools to teach religious doctrine about marriage and family, gender and sexuality?**
  - Will refer this matter to the Australian Law Reform Commission.

- **Should statements of belief that are not malicious, vitiating or inciting violence against employees be protected from discrimination claims?**
  - Yes.

- **Should religious charities that express a traditional view of marriage be permitted to keep their charitable and tax-exempt status?**
  - Yes, Will support amendments to the Charities Act to make this clear.

- **Should an employee who makes a statement of religious belief outside of work hours be protected from disciplinary action?**
  - Yes, in some circumstances.

- **Does the party support changing federal laws that currently prohibit providing advice about assisted suicide over the phone or internet, e.g. via telerehab?**
  - No.

- **Does the party support federal legislation requiring babies born alive after attempted abortions to be given medical care?**
  - No.

- **What is the party’s refugee policy?**
  - The Coalition will continue with offshore detention and increase Australia’s humanitarian intake to 7,000 each year.

### The Labor Party

- **Does the party support religious organisations, including schools, preferring staff of their own faith?**
  - No. It will push for a Charter of Rights instead.

- **Will the party’s proposal to remove so-called ‘discrimination’ against LGBT students affect the ability of religious schools to teach religious doctrine about marriage and family, gender and sexuality?**
  - Yes but only where a court or tribunal decides this is an ‘inherent requirement’ of the role.

- **Should statements of belief that are not malicious, vitiating or inciting violence against employees be protected from discrimination claims?**
  - Yes.

- **Should religious charities that express a traditional view of marriage be permitted to keep their charitable and tax-exempt status?**
  - Labor has committed to ensuring religious schools can continue to teach in accordance with their doctrine and will consult and carefully consider any consequential legislative amendments that may be required to ensure this occurs are matters.

- **Should an employee who makes a statement of religious belief outside of work hours be protected from disciplinary action?**
  - Labor will only protect statements of belief against claims of religious discrimination, not other forms (eg on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.)

- **Does the party support changing federal laws that currently prohibit providing advice about assisted suicide over the phone or internet, e.g. via telerehab?**
  - No public statement made but based on pro-euthanasia policies, it is very likely the Greens support an amendment.

- **Does the party support federal legislation requiring babies born alive after attempted abortions to be given medical care?**
  - No.

- **What is the party’s refugee policy?**
  - Labor will maintain offshore detention and increase Australia’s humanitarian intake to 27,000 each year.

### The Nationals

- **Does the party support religious organisations, including schools, preferring staff of their own faith?**
  - Yes, and will seek to override state laws preventing this (but only for religious educational institutions).

- **Will the party’s proposal to remove so-called ‘discrimination’ against LGBT students affect the ability of religious schools to teach religious doctrine about marriage and family, gender and sexuality?**
  - The Coalition has not made clear whether its undertaking to protect students against discrimination will affect religious teaching in religious schools.

- **Should statements of belief that are not malicious, vitiating or inciting violence against employees be protected from discrimination claims?**
  - Yes.

- **Should religious charities that express a traditional view of marriage be permitted to keep their charitable and tax-exempt status?**
  - Yes, Will support amendments to the Charities Act to make this clear.

- **Should an employee who makes a statement of religious belief outside of work hours be protected from disciplinary action?**
  - Yes.

- **Does the party support changing federal laws that currently prohibit providing advice about assisted suicide over the phone or internet, e.g. via telerehab?**
  - No.

- **Does the party support federal legislation requiring babies born alive after attempted abortions to be given medical care?**
  - No.

- **What is the party’s refugee policy?**
  - The Coalition will continue with offshore detention and increase Australia’s humanitarian intake to 13,750 people each year and provide an additional 16,500 places over four years for refugees from Afghanistan.

### The Greens

- **Does the party support religious organisations, including schools, preferring staff of their own faith?**
  - Yes.

- **Will the party’s proposal to remove so-called ‘discrimination’ against LGBT students affect the ability of religious schools to teach religious doctrine about marriage and family, gender and sexuality?**
  - No.

- **Should statements of belief that are not malicious, vitiating or inciting violence against employees be protected from discrimination claims?**
  - Yes.

- **Should religious charities that express a traditional view of marriage be permitted to keep their charitable and tax-exempt status?**
  - Yes.

- **Should an employee who makes a statement of religious belief outside of work hours be protected from disciplinary action?**
  - Yes.

- **Does the party support changing federal laws that currently prohibit providing advice about assisted suicide over the phone or internet, e.g. via telerehab?**
  - Has not made public a policy on this matter.

- **Does the party support federal legislation requiring babies born alive after attempted abortions to be given medical care?**
  - Yes.

- **What is the party’s refugee policy?**
  - The Greens will seek to abolish offshore detention and increase Australia’s humanitarian intake to 30,000 per year with an additional 4000 places for refugees from Afghanistan.