



KINGSTON FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

50 Channel Highway, Kingston, Tasmania, 7050

26th July 2026

Dear Member of Parliament,

We write to you on behalf of our congregation, a community of Tasmanian families, parents, and people of faith, to express our serious and shared concern about the proposed Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026.

We believe this legislation is unnecessary and risks creating more confusion than protection. Our churches condemn abuse of every kind and believe all people deserve protection and care. But the ordinary work of a church, prayer, pastoral conversation, and teaching, is not abuse, and we are troubled that this Bill risks conflating the two. Ordinary parental conversations, prayer, and pastoral care could be drawn into its scope, placing parents at risk of criminal or civil consequences simply for seeking to act in what they believe to be their child's best interests.

We would point to Victoria's conversion practices legislation as a cautionary example. It has raised genuine concern about churches being exposed to liability for prayer or pastoral advice that is not affirming on questions of sexual orientation or gender identity. Tasmania should learn from this experience, not repeat it.

We are also concerned that this Bill would extend well beyond pastoral settings. If ordinary, everyday conversations are drawn within its scope, parents, teachers, healthcare workers, and others who support children and young people could all be placed at risk simply for offering measured, honest guidance. Young people exploring questions of identity often need thoughtful, unhurried support from the trusted adults around them. That support should not be criminalised.

We are also concerned that religious freedom is not being given proper weight. Christian ministry and pastoral care must not be treated as suspect simply because they reflect a faith-based understanding of human dignity, identity, and care. An affirmation-only approach is, in our view, the wrong approach. It shuts down the ability of families, counsellors, and ministers to offer thoughtful, compassionate support, including where a person themselves is seeking help to pursue a different path.

It is equally concerning to our congregation that freedoms could effectively hinge on the views of a Commissioner. Fundamental rights should not be left to administrative interpretation or shifting policy positions. Matters of such seriousness should be set by clear law, not by the discretion of one office.

Before Tasmania legislates in this area, we urge you to support a proper judicial inquiry so the Parliament can fully understand the practical consequences of this Bill, especially for parents, people of faith, and those providing counselling and pastoral support.

On behalf of our congregation, we ask you to stand for parental rights, religious freedom, and a fair and balanced approach that protects all Tasmanians without overreach.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. W.R. Hall

On behalf of the Minister, Session, Committee, Members, Adherents and Friends of Kingston Free Presbyterian Church

(see attached signatures)



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Signature Schedule re: Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026

We, the undersigned members, adherents and friends of Kingston Free Presbyterian Church, endorse the attached letter and its concerns regarding the proposed Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026.

No.	Full Name (printed)	Suburb & Postcode	Signature	Date
1	DAMON ADAMS		D Adams	27/7/2026
2	RICHARD TAKYI		[Signature]	27/7/2026
3	Dyniel Bosveld		[Signature]	26/7/26
4	Matt Hall		M Hall	26/7/26
5	Julia Peden		J. Peden	26/07/26
6	Dhan And Priska		[Signature]	26/07/26
7	Lillian Bosveld		[Signature]	26/07/26
8	Jacob van Tuil		[Signature]	26/7/26
9	Abbe Verdoorn		[Signature]	26/7/26
10	Kay Conley		K.	26/7/26
11	Steve Conley		[Signature]	26/7/26
12	Gina Valderrama		Gina Valderrama	26/7/26
13	Mikayla Valderram		M Valderram	26/7/26
14	Mark de Hoog		M. de Hoog	26 July 2026
15	Winnie Verdoorn		W Verdoorn	26 July 2026
16	Peter de Hoog		[Signature]	26/7/2026

No.	Full Name (printed)	Suburb & Postcode	Signature	Date
17	Ella Taylor		Ertaylor	26/7/26
18	Rachel van Oorp		R. van Oorp	26/7/26
19	James Hall		James Hall	26/07/26
20	Zach Carter		Zach Carter	26/07/26
21	Sarah Carter		Sarah Carter	26/07/26
22	Christa de Hoog		Christa de Hoog	26/07/26
23	Brian Behrendorff		Brian Behrendorff	26/07/26
24	Stephen Behrendorff		Stephen Behrendorff	26/07/26
25	Matthew de Hoog		Matthew de Hoog	26/7/26
26	Alice de Hoog		Alice de Hoog	26/7/26
27	Stephen Gillie		Stephen Gillie	26/7/26
28	Christine Gillie		Christine Gillie	26/7/26
29	Andrew Higgins		Andrew Higgins	26/7/26
30	Naomi Higgins		Naomi Higgins	26/7/26
31	Benjamin Taylor		Benjamin Taylor	26/7/26
32	Cassy Taylor		Cassy Taylor	26/7/26
33	Jeremiah Ambrose		Jeremiah Ambrose	26/7/26
34	Siona Burzumkandhi		Siona Burzumkandhi	26/7/26
35	Christina Prisma		Christina Prisma	26/7/26
36	Leke Prisma		Leke Prisma	26/7/26

No.	Full Name (printed)	Suburb & Postcode	Signature	Date
37	Emma Hall		EMHALL	26/7/26
38	JUNE DUDUC		J. E. Duduc	28/7/26
39	INEKE CORNISH			28/7/26
40	LES CORNISH			28.7.26
41	TANYA HALL		J. Hall	30/7/26
42	RALPH HALL		WRHall	30/7/26
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