

31 July 2026

Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens
Parliament House,
Hobart, TAS, 7000

Dear Dr Woodruff,

Draft Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026

Uniting Vic.Tas welcomes the release of the *Draft Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026* and strongly supports its introduction and passage through the Tasmanian Parliament.

We commend your leadership in developing legislation intended to protect people from practices directed towards changing, suppressing, or eradicating their sexual orientation or gender identity. This reform represents an important opportunity for Tasmania to affirm the dignity, equality and fundamental rights of LGBTIQ+ people and prevent further harm.

Our support for this reform is longstanding. In 2023, you were among the Tasmanian Members of Parliament to whom Uniting Vic.Tas, together with the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the Uniting Church Presbytery of Tasmania, wrote urging the introduction and passage of legislation to protect people from the harm caused by sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts.

In that letter, we affirmed:

"We maintain the belief that all people should have the freedom to determine their own sexuality and identity, and every person deserves to be treated with fairness and respect."

We also acknowledged the particular responsibility of faith communities to recognise and respond to harm, including the trauma that LGBTIQ+ people may associate with churches and religious institutions.

Consistent with our earlier position, we support the Bill's recognition that a person's sexual orientation or gender identity is not broken, deficient or in need of fixing, changing or suppression.

We also support the Bill's complementary framework, including:

- criminal offences for serious conversion practices, including practices directed towards children;
- a civil response scheme focused on education, prevention, facilitated outcomes and systemic accountability;
- powers for the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner to receive reports, conduct investigations and promote compliance;
- protections against victimisation; and
- recognition of conversion practices against children within relevant child abuse and civil liability frameworks.

We particularly welcome the Bill's clear distinction between harmful conversion practices and legitimate health care, identity exploration, pastoral support, expressions of religious belief and discussions between parents and children. These provisions provide important clarity while preserving the central protection that conduct directed towards changing, suppressing or eradicating a person's sexual orientation or gender identity should not be permitted.

Effective implementation will be essential. The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner should be provided with sufficient and ongoing funding to undertake education, community engagement, survivor-centred reporting and resolution processes, systemic investigations and compliance activity. Implementation should also be informed by people with lived experience, including survivors from faith-based, culturally diverse, regional and rural communities.

We also encourage the development of accessible public education and tailored guidance for faith communities, health practitioners, community organisations, schools, families and service providers. This guidance should clearly explain both the harms prohibited by the legislation and the forms of supportive, affirming and ethical care that remain lawful.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Bill. Uniting strongly supports this important reform, and we look forward to its introduction and consideration by the Tasmanian Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a loop.

Carol Jeffs
Chief Executive Officer