

Religious Freedom in Australia

We are constantly told the redefinition of marriage will not affect religious freedom.

However, the push for marriage redefinition is already having an impact on religious freedom, even before any changes have been made to the law.

Earlier this year, the Catholic Bishops of Australia distributed a booklet titled *Don't Mess with Marriage* to students at Catholic schools.

The Director of Australian Marriage Equality, Rodney Croome, urged teachers, students and parents to make a complaint regarding the booklet to the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.

In response, a Tasmanian Greens candidate is taking Hobart's Archbishop Julian Porteous to the Anti-Discrimination Commission, even though he was just doing his job as Archbishop, that is, ensuring the Catholic understanding of marriage was being taught in Catholic schools.



If it is possible that a Catholic Bishop can be brought before the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner for expressing the Catholic faith in a Catholic environment at a time when the law still reserves marriage to one man and one woman, it is clear that changing the definition of marriage will affect religious freedom in this country.