



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

IS THERE A NEED FOR A RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION BILL?

REV DAVID REITVELD

Let me try and break down this complex debate.

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There is a wider movement affirming the rights of the LGBTI+s. Recent legislation has moved to protect the rights of this community. They are perceived to be vulnerable individuals. Cited evidence for this includes the fact that LGBTI+s experience poorer physical and mental health outcomes. It is argued this is because the LGBTI+ community experiences stigma and discrimination.

Those who oppose the religious discrimination legislation contend that the bill will allow religious organisations to discriminate by limiting the employment or self-expression opportunities of LGBTI+s. This vulnerable group needs our affirmation, not judgement, so it is argued.

People who affirm the need for a religious discrimination bill may do so on one of two grounds. Some will argue that LGBTI+ is an ungodly and unwise life choice. That their negative health outcomes are because of poor lifestyle choices. Society should protect Christians who make a more positive contribution. Look at our schools, hospitals, welfare agencies – they bless our community.

We do bless the community, but the above is not my position. I believe that in a modern secular democracy, others have the right to make their own choices, free from discrimination. I support the move towards a religious discrimination bill, but for a different reason.

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The answer is not to say that the rights of vulnerable individuals always trumps everyone else. That is unworkable. We must look to making freedoms widespread, and limiting negative consequences. If an LGBTI+ teacher cannot teach at a Christian school, they can teach at another school. They may be inconvenienced, but they have other options.

If the government says it is illegal for any school to only employ hetro-normative staff who have a traditional view of marriage, then the Christian or Muslim who wishes to send their children to a school that affirms a hetro-normative view of marriage has no other options.

“We shouldn’t accept the argument that an international human right should not be protected because of the possibility that a small number of individuals could be adversely impacted”.^[1]

[1]Dr Denis Dragovic, SBS news website.

SAFE MINISTRY



Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices. If you have a question or concern, we are here to help.

Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written: grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, encouraged and supported by your holy Word, we may embrace and always hold fast to the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Christmas at DAC

As Christmas quickly approaches we have a few events coming up we'd love you to come along to.



Tuesday 7th December, 7:30pm, at the Ministry Centre

Women's Dessert and Ornament Exchange

\$10 each, please bring two new Christmas Ornaments

Tickets online at www.dapto.church/dacwomen or through the church office.



Wednesday 15th December, 12noon, at the Ministry Centre

Seniors Christmas Lunch

\$20 each, Christmas Carols by Lisa Speelman

Tickets through the church office.



Friday 17th December, 5:20pm, at St Luke's Brownsville

Empty Nesters Christmas Dinner

\$20 each and please bring a Secret Santa gift of \$5 value

Book by emailing heathermboardman@gmail.com, pay by bank transfer



Sunday 19th December, at the Ministry Centre

Christmas Carols

3pm for Carols

4pm till 6pm Christmas Festival with family fun and food.

6pm Carol repeated.



Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve Services

6pm Service in the Auditorium at the Ministry Centre

11pm Midnight Service at St Luke's Brownsville



Saturday 25th December, at the Ministry Centre

Christmas Day Services

8am Traditional Service

9:30am Family Service



Sunday 26th December

Boxing Day Services

9am Combined Service

5pm BYO Diner & Fellowship, bring your leftovers and enjoy some fellowship.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

HOSPITAL

Please pray for Rebekah Swanepoel who was critically injured over the weekend when a tree fell on her car. She is in Liverpool Hospital. Please pray for Karen, Stephen, Margo and the family.

Pray for Tarj B, a member of the youth group, in hospital after an accident. Also please pray for his family.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please pray for our people who are in Nursing Homes - Kath H, Elsie N, Diana M, Barbara L, Reg B (all in St. Luke's Village); Robyn K, Neville K (Diggers Rest, Corrimal); Gae and Allen Q ('Dorington Court', Castle Hill); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Graham S (Carino Care, Rockdale); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.) Congratulations and birthday wishes to Ella who turns 100 on Tuesday, 7th December.

8AM

Daphne C's daughter, Joanna - Following her heart surgery, she has had a number of surgical procedures due to bowel blockage and internal bleeding. Please pray for Joanna that she will recover well from a number of operations, and also pray for peace for Daphne as she waits for Joanna to recover. Daphne C's neighbour - has Leukemia; Lyn R - still struggling and will see Surgeon on 17th December; Frances C - Recovering slowly after a fall and a fracture in her shoulder; Mavis V - recovering slowly after an operation on her shoulder; Gail R - at home and being cared for by John; Wendy R - thankful that her back has improved, still waiting for knee to improve; Arthur S - pray for freedom from pain.

10AM

Vince A - will have a double knee replacement on Monday, 5th December; Denise N - recovering after a short stay in hospital; Elizabeth L - recovering slowly and waiting for results from Specialists visits; Sue B - coping with her condition; Phil P - please pray for peace and to feel better while waiting for more treatment.

6PM

Shaina J's son, Roman, will see the Neurosurgeon very shortly; Gary M - ongoing recovery of health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Pray for Lynns N's father as he is back in hospital with fluid on the lungs and pulmonary oedema; and for her brother, whose treatment is going well; continue to pray for Janelle and Ken M.