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**NSW could be the next domino to fall as fundamental human rights are trampled by so-called conversion practices laws around the country.**

Victoria's recent *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act* is one of the most radical and overreaching laws **in the world**.<sup>1</sup> It promotes LGBTQ+ lifestyle while criminalising alternative approaches to human sexuality.

Alex Greenwich has introduced his Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill, which largely mirrors the Victorian legislation.<sup>2</sup> The Minns government is also considering similar legislation in NSW, and a Consultation Paper has been circulated.<sup>3</sup>

## Conversion therapy laws don't only target religious people, they are bad for all Australians. Here's why:

- 1 They tear families apart** – Under such laws parents, teachers, and counsellors can be criminally prosecuted for acting in a child's best interest when addressing sexual attraction.
- 2 They harm members of the LGBT community** – Such laws directly hinder adults who, desiring to live out their moral beliefs and values, seek and consent to counselling and medical care for managing unwanted same-sex attraction. Their fundamental right to choose the support they want is denied.<sup>4</sup>
- 3 They trample religious freedom** – Religious practices, like prayer and pastoral counselling, could be explicitly banned if they clash with progressive LGBTIQ+ ideologies.<sup>5</sup>
- 4 They jeopardise religious communities** – Churches, mosques and synagogues could lose their ability to ensure that their members, employees, volunteers and leaders conform to their beliefs. If a synagogue can't ensure its Rabbi lives according to Jewish doctrine, it can't protect its religious character.<sup>6</sup>
- 5 They violate fundamental human rights** – Victorian legislation grants excessive powers to government bureaucracy to investigate, re-educate, punish and suppress people for exercising their fundamental human rights.<sup>7</sup>

### Example Scenario<sup>8</sup>

Darwish is a member of the Coptic Christian church and **struggles with feelings with same sex attraction**. As a person of faith, his faith anchors him and gives a sense of purpose and belonging.

Darwish sought counselling, prayer and advice from the leaders at his Church, who referred him to a psychiatrist connected to his faith community he sought to help Darwish understand and work through his feelings of same-sex attraction.

According to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, **both Darwish's church leaders and the psychiatrist could be criminally charged for trying to help Darwish manage his unwanted feelings of same-sex attraction.**

**TAKE ACTION TODAY!**

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and make a difference.



<sup>1</sup> *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* (VIC); Murray Campbell, "Victoria Bans Conversion Practices Despite Significant Flaws in the Bill" (4 February 2021), <<https://murraycampbell.net/2021/02/04/victoria-bans-conversion-practices-despite-significant-flaws/>>.

<sup>2</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, "Greenwich to introduce long-overdue equality bill as NSW trails country" (22 August 2023).

<sup>3</sup> The Guardian, "NSW Labor leader Chris Minns promises to ban gay conversion therapy, putting pressure on Perrottet" (11 February 2023); Sydney Morning Herald, "Gay conversion law would ban suppression of gender identity" (11 August 2023).

<sup>4</sup> *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* (VIC), s4; Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (VIC), s4.

<sup>5</sup> *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* (VIC), s5(3)(b).

<sup>6</sup> VEOHRC, "Olly's Story", <<https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/change-or-suppression-stories/ollys-story/>>.

<sup>7</sup> *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* (VIC), Part 3.

<sup>8</sup> Provided from the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) Website (<https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/change-or-suppression-stories/sams-story/>).