



## CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, PROMOTING VALUES AND ETHICS Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Support of Israel Folau and his Right to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion For immediate circulation**

Fred and Silvana Nile Stand with Israel Folau in defence of his Freedom of Speech and all Pacific Players such as Taniela Tupou.

We stand in support of all Pacific Islanders in and out of the sporting arena and all people defending their right to freedom of speech, such as Taniela Tupou who is strongly supporting Israel Folau.



*Taniela Tupou (in red)*

Rugby has a great history of being a gateway for change in culture and politics. The 1981 South African (Springboks) tour of NZ (All Blacks) comes to mind as a previous moment in history when the sport played a crucial part in bringing awareness to a major injustice (Apartheid) and created a wave for change.

In an explosive development days out from Israel Folau's attempt to save his multi-million-dollar career at an RA code of conduct hearing, Queensland Reds and Wallabies prop Taniela Tupou took to Facebook to express his support for the under-fire superstar. "Seriously? Might as well sack me and all the other Pacific Islands rugby players around the world because we have the same Christian beliefs," Tupou posted. "I will never apologise for my faith and what I believe in, religion had nothing to do with rugby anyways."

“Today we find ourselves in an era where freedom of thought and free speech are being attacked on many fronts and Israel Folau finds himself in the eye of a media storm regarding his personal views and that of the Australian Rugby Union board which have moved to have those views silenced” said Silvana Nile, Christian Democratic Party candidate for the Senate.



*Israel Folau*

Fred and Silvana have personally spent time in Pacific Island Nations including Fiji, Hawaii, Cook Islands and also New Zealand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, New Caledonia, American Samoa and Tahiti etc. and have a deep respect and love for the people throughout the Australian/Pacific region.

“We recognise the strong Christian heritage throughout the Pacific region and celebrate with gratitude all Pacific Islanders who have chosen to call Australia home and have brought with them their powerful Warrior Spirit expressed on the sporting fields and in their Faith and firm standing in Christian Values” said Rev Fred Nile, who has served for 37 years in the NSW Parliament.



*Taniela Tupou*

Fred and Silvana are praying for all Ruby Union Players who are facing pressure to compromise on their Faith and Values at this time. We understand they are fighting a spiritual battle of ideas on the front line. Jesus Christ said:

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemes”- Matthew 15:19

We remember at this time Psalm 24

“...Who may climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who may stand on his holy place?  
Only those whose hands and hearts are pure,  
Who do not worship idols and never tell lies...”

“We uphold our brothers in Christ within The Australian Rugby Union Franchise as they create waves of change in a climate of silencing freedom of thought and expression of religious views” said Silvana Nile.

**END**

**All media enquiries to: Annie Wright (+61) 417 271 820**

**3 May 2019**

Handwritten signature of Silvana Nile in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Fred Nile in blue ink.

**Mrs Silvana Nile**

**Rev. Hon. Fred Nile ED., L.Th., M.L.C.**

Federal President and Federal Registered Officer – CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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