



**The Rev. The Hon. Fred Nile MLC ED., L.Th.,**



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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

VICTORY ISRAEL FOLAU

**For immediate circulation**

Today the media has reported that a settlement between the Christian sportsman Israel Folau and Rugby Australia has been reached, after a protracted dispute concerning his sacking and right to cite from the Bible in support of traditional marriage. Rev. Nile makes the following additional comments:

- “Christianity has been squeezed out of the public square for many years, and the fact that this dispute has received so much attention is proof that it is an issue many Australians find concerning.”
- “It is worth remembering that Israel Folau was sacked and therefore prevented from participating in his career as a footballer simply because he quoted from the Bible.”
- “If it is possible for somebody today to be treated this way, then Christians and our worldview are effectively banned from public life – this is intolerable.”
- “Today Australia has been reminded that there is a price to pay for Christians who are persecuted the way that Israel Folau has been persecuted.”
- “This episode in our struggle to guarantee religious freedoms only highlights the need for the passage of legislation that will establish a positive right for Christians to practice and live their faith in the public square.”
- “I am co-sponsoring a bill with the Hon. Mark Latham which will ensure that Christians are protected at law from persecution. I trust that the New South Wales state government will allow time in the new parliamentary year to debate this bill, and of course pass it too.”

### **Media inquiries:**

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**5 December 2019**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Fred Nile'.