



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



Member of the Legislative Council  
Deputy Chair, Privileges Committee  
Parliamentary Leader, Christian Democratic Party  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Telephone: (02) 9230 2478 Facsimile: (02) 9230 2098  
Email: [f.nile@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:f.nile@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FEDERAL RELIGIOUS PROTECTION BILL: INADEQUATE**

#### **For immediate circulation**

News that the Federal religious protection bill has undergone a further 11 substantive amendments in response to the numerous submissions received by community groups and individual, is a welcome development. However, much work is still to be done to effectively protect people and organisations of faith throughout Australia. Rev Fred Nile MLC makes the following comments:

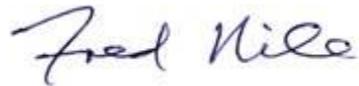
- *“A copy of the Christian Democratic Party’s bill to protect religious freedom was provided to the federal Committee considering the Commonwealth legislation. This was sent because our bill, which I introduced last year after extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, is a comprehensive guarantee of religious liberties.”*
- *“The recent persecution of Israel Folau, which has not ended in light of the complaint made against him before the Anti-Discrimination Board, is just one example of why legislated protections are needed in Australia – and definitely in New South Wales.”*
- *“Another example of the need to protect religious liberties is the manner in which the NSW abortion laws were debated with respect to Christian medical practitioners, who are now going to be forced to perform medical procedures against their conscience.”*
- *“Media reports has vindicated that the federal proposed law, even after the 11 further changes, will not protect Christian doctors who do not want to perform abortions. This is an outrage. It defeats the purpose of the bill. It essentially says that on those occasions when religious protection is most needed, it won’t be provided at law. My fear is that the federal legislation will be nothing short of window dressing.”*

- *“The debates over the federal bill only highlight one thing here in NSW: the need to pass the bill which was introduced by me which comprehensibly protects the freedoms of individuals and organisations of faith.”*

**Media inquiries:**

**Rev. Hon. Fred Nile MLC (02) 9230 2478**

**17 December 2019**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Nile". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.