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FamilyVoice AUSTRALIA

VoxLink

Queensland

June 2017

Queensland police promoting LGBT agenda

The Queensland Police Service is giving rainbow lanyards to offices, in a bid to help the celebration of "diversity".



Julie Cooke / Queensland Police

Queensland Police were issued rainbow lanyards and encouraged to wear them to make a statement on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia on May 17, as pictured at right.

FamilyVoice understands a communication went to all senior police, constables and managers encouraging all personnel to wear a rainbow lanyard, fly LGBTI Network posters at police stations and advising that the rainbow flag would fly at police headquarters in Roma Street.

"The rainbow flag displayed on police uniforms and other associated paraphernalia represents an ideologically-driven agenda pushing for the redefinition of marriage and the reshaping and acceptance of abnormal sexual behaviour," said FamilyVoice National Director Ashley Saunders.

"Pressuring police officers to 'nail their colours' to the mast (quite literally) is not only highly inappropriate of the Police Service and also a clear violation of individuals' right to hold beliefs based upon their conscience and/or religious beliefs.

"The Queensland Police are a law enforcement agency and it is not within their interests or responsibilities to be involved in political activism or social re-engineering by engaging in the promotion of a misguided militant cause that has serious ramifications for Australian society as a whole.

"Since police officers promise to serve 'without favour or affection' it is totally inappropriate that lanyards worn as part of the uniform would make a political statement.

"Mr Saunders noted that in related case earlier this year, the Australian Defence Force supplied its troops with rainbow coloured 'Army Pride' lapel pins and encouraged them to march in uniform at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras on March 4.

"According to Army regulations, the 'Rising Sun' badge is not to be 'redrawn, recoloured, renamed, modified, cropped, rotated, manipulated or altered in any way… or used as part of a new logo,'" said FamilyVoice National Director Ashley Saunders at the time.

Mr Saunders also pointed out that ADF personnel marching in uniform at this event contravenes the military's standing orders of being politically neutral, and it insults those who fought, bled and died for the freedom that we enjoy in this country.

He explained that the Rising Sun badge represents sacrifice, not politics.

"The Rising Sun badge is a unifying motif which Australian soldiers may proudly wear. It should not be hi-jacked for divisive purposes.

"The double standards is alarming," he said referring to this most recent case.

Tennis champion drops Qantas

Australian tennis champion and Christian pastor Margaret Court has publicly announced she will stop using Qantas "where possible" in protest at the airline's promotion of same sex marriage.



Chris Brown Photography

Margaret Court is the most decorated tennis player in history

Writing an open letter addressed to the QANTAS board and Alan Joyce which was published in *The West Australian*, Ms Court said: "I am disappointed that Qantas has become an active promoter for same sex marriage."

"I believe in marriage as a union between a man and a woman as stated in the Bible," the letter said.

"Your statement leaves me no option but to use other airlines where possible for my extensive travelling.

"How proud I was to promote the kangaroo tail throughout the world from the Constellation days to the 380s. But unfortunately no more.

"I love all people and will be pleased to talk to your board at any time. But it won't be in the Qantas lounge."

Her bold statement invoked a wide variety of equally robust responses including one from fellow tennis legend Martina Navratilova who declared on Twitter that it might be time to change the name of Margaret Court Arena to something else.

"The numerous calls to Margaret's fair and legal opinion is showing how much the regressive LGBT lobby want to shut down freedom of speech," said FamilyVoice National Director Ashley Saunders.

"Margaret chose a controversial method to be heard in the media cycle, which is quite understandable, and FamilyVoice thanks her for her courage to affirm man-woman marriage.

"Now we will see how the national conversation about freedom of speech plays out.

"Whether others wish to boycott Qantas or not, you cannot ignore Margaret Court's courage in standing for God's design for marriage."

‘Safe Schools’ victories are positive steps

FamilyVoice welcomes Tasmanian, NSW and SA state government action against the ideologically-driven ‘Safe Schools’ program but says greater reforms are needed.

Both NSW and Tasmania’s State Governments have wisely chosen to dump the divisive and highly-sexualised ‘Safe Schools’ program from state curricula.

NSW Education Minister Rob Stokes said the program, which currently runs in about 18 state schools, would be cancelled and replaced with a new anti-bullying strategy when federal funding for the controversial program runs out on June 30.

Mr Stokes is consulting with the education sector, including Catholic and independent schools and principal groups, about the new strategy which is expected to be rolled out in the second half of this year.

Tasmania’s Education Minister Jeremy Rockliff has told News Corp the state ‘has no plans’ to fund Safe Schools in Tasmania, once the current federal funding arrangement expires at the end of June. Currently 22 Tasmanian schools are signed up to the program

“The Tasmanian government is committed to providing a safe and inclusive school environment to support student learning and wellbeing, which is why we have invested $3 million over four years as part of the Combating Bullying budget initiative,” Mr Rockliff said.

The Liberal party in Victoria first made the decision to overturn the program, and their election promise was the impetus for NSW and Tasmania’s Liberal majority to defund the program while in power.



Meanwhile in South Australia, the program is set to continue albeit in a “revised” format funded by the State Government that will supposedly focus on actual anti-bullying measures as opposed to pushing divisive ideologies which include teaching students that gender and sexuality are fluid concepts.

Thanks to a widespread public backlash and pro-active campaigning on the part of organisations such as FamilyVoice, federal funding will cease from the end of June. However, it is expected that the program will simply be renamed and run by the State Government’s controversial SHine SA sex-education administration. *The Advertiser* reports that the Federal Government has allocated $8 million to the revised program.

“While FamilyVoice holds a position that is strongly opposed to all forms of bullying in schools – and anywhere else, for that matter – the ‘Safe Schools’ program was not about preventing bullying, but rather all about normalising and effectively promoting the same-sex agenda and the flawed idea that gender is fluid,” said National Director Ashley Saunders.

‘Gender reassignment’ a harmful fad, doctor warns

Sydney-based paediatrician and Western Sydney University Professor John Whitehall has highlighted the dangers of children undergoing potentially irreversible gender reassignment surgery.

“I think it’s a dangerous fad,” Professor Whitehall told *The Australian*.

“A dangerous behavioural fashion trend fuelled by the ideologues and fuelled by the media,” he said.

“All of what we’re currently doing is experimental,” he said. “There’s little evidence of the positive effects.”

Professor Whitehall drew on a number of studies which indicated hormone treatment can impact the brain, affecting memory, executive function and cerebral function. “Even making that so-called social transition has consequences. It nails the child to the cross. It’s very difficult to come back from that,” he said.

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Age-verification for porn sites to be implemented in the UK

The UK has taken active steps to protect young minds from the serious risks of online pornography. Australia should do the same according to Ashley Saunders.

After months of deliberation, Child Protection advocates are celebrating in the United Kingdom with new changes adopted into legislation.



Our kids need safe net access

The UK have been taking active steps to protect children from online pornography harms and on April 27, the Digital Economy Bill 2016-2017 was approved.

The legislation creates civil penalties for online pornographers who do not verify the age of their customers, and ISP level blocking of non-compliant sites.

“This is a huge win for children,” said FamilyVoice National Director Ashley Saunders commenting on the UK victory.

“We can all speak up, and call on our Government and technology companies to prevent the harms of pornography from occurring in the first place.

“This is a sensible measure that must also be implemented here in Australia in order to preserve our children’s innocence.”

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Myths about the euthanasia debate

MYTH 1: Euthanasia and assisted suicide are not killing, they are acts of mercy.

Euthanasia refers to the deliberate action, usually by a medical professional, to end the life of another person (e.g. by lethal injection).

Assisted Suicide refers to when a person ends their own life, with the help of a medical professional (e.g. by prescribing or providing lethal quantities of drugs).

These two distinct terms are often incorporated into 'Medical Aid in Dying' or similar phrases. Whatever names you use, these are actions which have the deliberate intention to directly end a person's life: in other words, these are murderous acts which are incompatible with any form of medical care. True health care is about supporting and nurturing life from conception to natural death.

MYTH 2. Euthanasia or assisted suicide is about enabling people to 'die with dignity'.

This argument presupposes an erroneous idea about what human dignity means. Our dignity is not about being independent, autonomous, and free. It is not found in the subjective 'quality' of our lives, but in the objective fact of our being human. Nothing we can do, and nothing that can happen to us, can affect our inherent human dignity. People do not 'lose their dignity' in the face of death, pain, incapacitation, dementia, incontinence or any other limitations. Living - and dying - with true dignity means to see the inherent and inviolable worth in every human person, despite their life circumstances and to offer them the care they need. A disabled, sick or elderly person is not a 'burden' on society, but a person to be loved and cared for: a person who can teach us the where true human dignity is found.

There are many of these such people who live full and meaningful lives with the same symptoms that are labelled as 'unbearable' or 'inhuman' by so many advocates of medically assisted dying.



Ironically, euthanasia and assisted suicide denies true human dignity, and reduces it to a subjective concept measured by categories which are constantly changing in perception. The way that supporters of medically assisted use the word 'dignity' should cause us all to re-examine our understanding of human dignity, and ask ourselves if our actions towards other people, especially the sick, elderly and disabled, truly reflect our convictions. If we as a society do not witness to what true human dignity means, then calls for the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide will only get louder and stronger.

MYTH 3. Euthanasia or assisted suicide is a compassionate option for people who suffer unbearable pain at the end of life.

No-one wants to die a prolonged and agonizing death. However, according to Mary Brooksbank, the former chair of Palliative Care South Australia, "no one dying an expected death needs to die in extreme, agonising pain. If they do, it's because they haven't had access to good quality palliative care."[1] Unfortunately, even in Australia, many people still do not have access to appropriate palliative care.

Instead of offering to help end these people's lives, we should be working to provide compassionate, comprehensive and life-affirming care to all people. In some cases, it is true that it is sometimes necessary to use high doses of morphine or other drugs in order to relieve extreme pain for those in palliative care, which may have the consequence of shortening the life of the patient. However, this is very different from providing euthanasia: the intention here is to eliminate the suffering, not the sufferer. When death does occur, it is not deliberately caused by an intentionally murderous act. Rather, the medicines administered have an unintended side effect of contributing towards, but not directly causing, the person's death.

1. Dr Mary Brooksbank, palliativecare.org.au/palliative-matters/expert-opinion-the-euthanasia-debate

Early palliative care, not killing

Perth-based palliative care consultant Dr Ashwini Davray believes the proven benefits of early involvement in palliative medicine need to be more well-known.

"In one landmark study in 2010, early involvement of palliative medicine in metastatic non-small cell lung cancer resulted in improved quality of life, improved rates of depression and prolonged survival," Dr Davray said in an October 2011 article published in *Medical Forum*.

She cited how her palliative care unit treated a 78-year-old advanced lung cancer patient, who in a crisis of pain had attempted suicide, "depressed and fearful". The woman had been suffering advanced cancer for six months before admission.

After 28 days in the unit, effective pain control and referral to a psychiatrist, counsellor, chaplain and social worker, the woman was discharged "pain free", did not require suicide watch and "was thankful for her time in the unit." Two months later she entered terminal care and died peacefully.

Dr Davray says effective palliative care involves communication skills around preparing for death and spirituality.

Her team aims to create discussions on: treatment preferences; goals of care from the patient, their family and the treating team; community services after discharge; and addressing fears on the journey towards death.

"FamilyVoice urges MPs to invest in early comprehensive palliative care as the truly compassionate answer to the growing numbers of suicidal, terminally ill patients – and therefore reject assisted killing as the opposite of compassionate care," said FamilyVoice National Director Ashley Saunders.



- Freedom of religion and belief under attack
- Freedom of speech based on Bible
- Disability advocates oppose euthanasia

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Influencing the culture: Andrea Williams

A leading UK religious rights lawyer is recognised for her bold and articulate Christian stance in the public square.

Andrea Williams is an extraordinary Christian fighting "gallantly" to ensure that the Christian voice for justice and fairness is reflected in UK law and "stoutly defending Christians who are being persecuted simply for wanting to live their lives reflecting Christian truth," according to popular Christian blogger Archbishop Cranmer.

Andrea Williams serves as the CEO of Christian Concern and its sister organisation Christian Legal Centre.

Her passion to correct injustices against Christians is evidenced by her statements on key issues.

On silencing dissent

Andrea was a key defender of Felix Ngole – another victim of the increasing alienation of Christians from the public square.

In 2016 he was expelled from the University of Sheffield for expressing support for the biblical view of sexuality during a Facebook discussion.

Yet in an important ruling in April 2017, justice prevailed as the High Court granted permission for Felix to judicially review the University's decision to expel him.

Felix had been removed from his course. His case was dismissed at every stage of the University internal appeals procedure, and his written arguments were dismissed by a Deputy High Court Judge in March 2017.

Without the support of the Christian Legal Centre, Felix would have been left out in the cold, unable to make his case.

More importantly, this case is not just about personal justice for Felix as it has wide-reaching ramifications for the freedoms of UK Christians in all areas of public life.

Upholding the family

Andrea is a brave defender of the family: "The family is the most basic unit of civilisation. Christian theologians have called the family the 'primary cell' of human society. It would seem clear that the government has a legitimate interest in promoting a healthy marriage culture.

"In recent decades, the law has become a sword which has laid waste to the family, rather than a shield to protect it.

"Sixty years ago in the UK, 4.8 percent of babies were born outside of wedlock. Today a staggering 46.8 percent of children are born outside of wedlock. In 1952, with a population of 50 million, there were 349,308 marriages. In 2014, despite the population being 15 million people larger, only 241,100 marriages took place. In 1952 divorce was rare, affecting only 33,992 people. Today, we are seeing divorces occurring at a rate more than six times that."

Andrea observes that we see "out of control equality legislation which disproportionately targets Christians; compulsory relationships and sex education for children as young as five; eugenic reproductive technologies such as 'three-parent' babies; the erosion of free speech due to loosely worded 'hate' provisions – these are all symptoms of bad legislation creating bad culture."

Defending freedoms

In an open letter to UK Prime Minister Theresa May, Williams said that May's tenure at the Home Office saw an 'alarming' increase in Christian organisations being forced to water down or deny their ethos and 'countless' instances of Christians being side-lined.

She writes: "We saw Christians losing their public sector jobs for offering prayer or giving testimony to their faith. We saw them punished and losing their jobs in the public institutions for professing marriage to be between one man and one woman and talking of children doing best when raised by a mother and a father. In an open and free society these freedoms are not superficial but are fundamental.

"Will you consider an immediate halt to the previous government's counter-extremism measures that do not distinguish between Christianity and Islam and which will further suppress Christianity?



Andrea Williams, a champion of freedom

"Under the Government's approach, there is a tendency for some officials to view people with socially conservative views on marriage and sexuality as somehow on their way to becoming violent extremists," Andrea Williams pointed out in her communication to the British Prime Minister.

Law saves lives or takes them.

On issues like abortion, euthanasia, and others, jurisprudence can either kill people or save lives, Andrea explains.

"For anyone who believes that to be an overstatement, 8,500,000 is the number of abortions that have happened in the United Kingdom since British law-makers, those we put into office, legalised abortion in 1967.

"It is often said that you can't legislate morality. But this is not true. All law legislates morality. When we go to the polls, let us ask: whose morality is our future MP seeking to legislate? Man's, or God's?"

Andrea tours Australia in July!

NOT ASHAMED

FamilyVoice is hosting Andrea Williams on a national tour. Don't miss it!

Brisbane evening talk
Monday 24 July, 7pm
in Alderley, Brisbane
RSVP by Friday July 21

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