Appendix C: Australian Legislation Restricting Christian Freedoms

2000–2025

This appendix lists enacted Australian legislation that has narrowed or constrained Christian freedoms across all six states, two territories, and the federal government since 2000. Each entry cites the operative section and briefly describes the Act's effect on Christian freedom. Pre-existing anti-discrimination legislation—including base Acts in New South Wales (1977), Queensland (1991), Tasmania (1998), and Western Australia (1984)—predates this timeline but underpins many of the cases documented in this report.

Acts are organised by the year they were given royal assent (or notification, for Australian Capital Territory legislation), not the year of their tabling or commencement. Where multiple jurisdictions enacted substantially identical legislation in the same period—as with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law adopting Acts of 2009–2010—these are grouped as a single entry. Acts enacted after 2025 are excluded from this list but noted where relevant in the body of the report.

2001

- La **QLD | Anti-Discrimination Amendment Act 2001 | s 124A |** Introduced religious vilification provisions, exposing Christian public expression about other religions to civil complaint.
- La **VIC | Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 | ss 8, 11 |** Introduced civil religious vilification provisions—deployed against Christian pastors in the Catch the Fire case for public commentary on Islamic beliefs.

2002

- La **ACT | Crimes (Abolition of Offence of Abortion) Act 2002 | s 3 |** Became the first Australian Act to fully remove abortion from criminal law, with no conscience protections for objecting practitioners or institutions.

2006

- La **SA | Statutes Amendment (Domestic Partners) Act 2006 | s 5 |** Amended 97 Acts to embed same-sex relationship recognition across South Australian law, redefining family contrary to Christian teaching.

2008

- La **Commonwealth | Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—General Law Reform) Act 2008 | Sch 2 |** Amended 68 Commonwealth Acts to embed same-sex relationship recognition across federal law, redefining family contrary to Christian teaching.
- La **Commonwealth | Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Act 2008 | Schs 1–5 |** Amended 14 Commonwealth superannuation Acts to embed same-sex relationship recognition in federal pension law, redefining "partner" and "child" contrary to Christian teaching on marriage and family.
- La **NSW | Miscellaneous Acts Amendment (Same Sex Relationships) Act 2008 | Schs 1–3 |** Amended 57 Acts to embed same-sex relationship recognition across NSW law, redefining family contrary to Christian teaching.
- La **VIC | Abortion Law Reform Act 2008 | ss 4–5, 8 |** Decriminalised abortion and compelled objecting practitioners to refer patients, with no conscience protections for Christian institutions.
- La **VIC | Relationships Act 2008 | s 17 |** Established a formal relationship register for any two adults, providing a marriage-equivalent framework contrary to Christian teaching.
- La **ACT | Children and Young People Act 2008 | s 356 |** Required clergy to report child abuse disclosures made in the sacrament of confession, compelling clergy to breach the confessional seal under threat of imprisonment.
- La **ACT | Civil Partnerships Act 2008 | s 5 |** Established a formal civil partnership register for any two adults regardless of sex, creating a marriage-equivalent framework contrary to Christian teaching.

2009

- La **QLD | Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 | ss 5, 156, 196 |** Enacted the National Law, establishing AHPRA's powers, including over conduct outside clinical settings, to investigate and deregister health practitioners, subsequently used to suspend Christian practitioners.
- La **NSW, VIC, SA, TAS, NT, ACT | Health Practitioner Regulation National Law adopting Acts 2009–2010 |** Applied the National Law across all six jurisdictions, extending AHPRA's disciplinary reach over Christian practitioners' public expression.

2010

- La **NSW | Adoption Amendment (Same Sex Couples) Act 2010 | Schs 1–2 |** Opened adoption to same-sex couples, redefining parentage contrary to Christian teaching, though Christian adoption agencies retained an exemption.
- La **NSW | Surrogacy Act 2010 | s 30 |** Enabled parentage transfer to same-sex couples through surrogacy, redefining family formation contrary to Christian teaching.
- La **QLD | Surrogacy Act 2010 | s 22 |** Enabled parentage transfer to same-sex couples through surrogacy, redefining family formation contrary to Christian teaching.
- La **VIC | Equal Opportunity Act 2010 | ss 15, 83 |** Introduced an inherent requirements test for religious schools narrowing faith-based hiring exemptions, and imposed a positive duty to eliminate discrimination, increasing compliance pressure on Christian organisations.

2013

- La **Commonwealth | Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Act 2013 | ss 5A–5C, 37 |** Added sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds, creating new complaint exposure for Christian organisations and removing religious exemptions for Christian aged care providers.
- La **TAS | Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Act 2013 | ss 7, 9 |** Decriminalised abortion, imposed mandatory referral on objecting practitioners, and introduced 150-metre safe access zones restricting prayer, counselling and public witness near clinics.

2014

- La **ACT | Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Act 2014 | ss 23–24 |** Removed the surgery requirement for sex marker changes on birth certificates, beginning the legislative trend toward gender self-identification.

2015

- La **VIC | Adoption Amendment (Adoption by Same-Sex Couples) Act 2015 | s 11 |** Opened adoption to same-sex couples with no exemptions for Christian agencies, redefining parentage contrary to Christian teaching.
- La **VIC | Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Act 2015 | s 185D |** Introduced 150-metre safe access zones around abortion clinics—used to prosecute Catholic pro-life advocate Kathleen Clubb for offering a pamphlet to a couple outside a Melbourne clinic.
- La **ACT | Health (Patient Privacy) Amendment Act 2015 | s 86 |** Established 150-metre patient privacy zones around abortion facilities and expanded approved facility types, further entrenching abortion as routine healthcare.

2016

- La **QLD | Adoption and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 | s 76 |** Removed Queensland's explicit ban on same-sex couples adopting, redefining parentage contrary to Christian teaching.

2017

- Co **Commonwealth | Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017 | ss 5, 47, 47A–47B |** Redefined marriage as the union of any two people, with exemptions limited to solemnisation—leaving Christian schools, charities and individuals in commercial contexts exposed to discrimination claims.
- La **NT | Termination of Pregnancy Law Reform Act 2017 | ss 12–13, 16 |** Decriminalised abortion and compelled objecting practitioners to refer patients, with no conscience protections for Christian institutions.
- La **SA | Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 | ss 30–31 |** Designated ministers of religion as mandated reporters of child abuse suspicions with no exemption for information disclosed in the sacrament of confession, compelling clergy to breach the confessional seal under threat of a $10,000 fine.
- La **VIC | Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 | ss 7, 11 |** Legalised assisted suicide with individual conscience protections for practitioners but no institutional protections for Christian healthcare facilities.

2018

- Co **Commonwealth | National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 | ss 6, 12 |** Required participating institutions, including many of Australia's largest Christian organisations, to pay redress under a "reasonable likelihood" evidentiary standard lower than the civil standard, without ordinary rights of appeal or cross-examination of claims.
- La **NSW | Crimes Amendment (Publicly Threatening and Inciting Violence) Act 2018 | s 93Z |** Introduced incitement offences covering religion, sexual orientation and gender identity with no good-faith or public interest exemptions, creating legal risk for Christian expression.
- Co **NSW | Public Health Amendment (Safe Access to Reproductive Health Clinics) Act 2018 | ss 98C–98D |** Established 150-metre safe access zones around abortion facilities, prohibiting any communication relating to abortion likely to cause distress—capturing prayer, counselling and public witness with no good-faith exemption.
- La **QLD | Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 | ss 7–9, 14–15 |** Decriminalised abortion and compelled objecting practitioners to refer patients, with no conscience protections for Christian institutions; introduced 150-metre safe access zones prohibiting prayer, counselling and public witness.
- Li **TAS | Children, Young Persons and Their Families Amendment (Mandatory Reporting) Act 2018 | s 14 |** Required clergy to report child abuse disclosures made in the sacrament of confession, compelling clergy to breach the confessional seal under threat of criminal penalty.

2019

- Co **NSW | Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 | ss 5–6, 9, 18 |** Decriminalised abortion and compelled objecting practitioners to refer or transfer care to a willing provider, with no conscience protections for Christian institutions.
- La **NT | Care and Protection of Children Amendment Act 2019 | s 26 |** Required all persons, including clergy, to report child abuse beliefs regardless of any other Territory law, effectively overriding the confessional seal under threat of criminal penalty.
- Li **TAS | Justice and Related Legislation (Marriage and Gender Amendments) Act 2019 | ss 28A, 28D |** Introduced pure gender self-identification with no medical requirement and deemed it binding on all institutions under Tasmanian law, including Christian schools and organisations.

- La **VIC | Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Act 2019 | ss 30A–30B, 30G |** Introduced unqualified sex self-identification on birth certificates with no medical requirement, increasing pressure on Christian institutions to accommodate gender ideology in records, facilities and pastoral care.
- La **VIC | Children Legislation Amendment Act 2019 | ss 9–10, 18 |** Required clergy to report child abuse disclosures made in the sacrament of confession, compelling clergy to breach the confessional seal under threat of criminal penalty.
- La **WA | Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019 | ss 9, 15 |** Legalised assisted suicide with individual conscience protections for practitioners but no institutional protections for Christian healthcare facilities.

2020

- La **QLD | Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 | s 229BC |** Required all adults, including clergy, to report child abuse beliefs formed during the sacrament of confession, compelling clergy to breach the confessional seal under threat of three years' imprisonment.
- La **QLD | Health Legislation Amendment Act 2020 | ss 213F, 213H |** Prohibited conversion practices within regulated health services, restricting Christian counsellors and psychologists from providing care aligned with Christian teaching on sexuality.
- Li **SA | Health Care (Safe Access) Amendment Act 2020 | ss 48B, 48D |** Introduced 150-metre safe access zones around abortion facilities, prohibiting prayer vigils, signage and public witness under threat of criminal penalty.
- La **ACT | Sexuality and Gender Identity Conversion Practices Act 2020 | ss 7–8 |** Prohibited conversion practices across any setting—including churches, pastoral counselling and prayer—with no exemptions for Christian expression, applying to minors and vulnerable adults.

2021

- Co **Commonwealth | Online Safety Act 2021 | ss 7, 88, 109 |** Established regulatory powers over online content, with no good-faith exemption for Christian expression, creating chilling effects on Christian commentary on sexuality and gender.
- Co **Commonwealth | Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work) Amendment Act 2021 | s 28AA |** Expanded workplace harassment law to cover seriously demeaning conduct, exposing Christian employers to complaint for expressing biblically orthodox views on sexuality or gender.
- La **NT | Termination of Pregnancy Law Reform Legislation Amendment Act 2021 | ss 5–6 |** Removed the gestational limit on abortion beyond 24 weeks, creating acute conscience pressure on Christian healthcare workers in a jurisdiction with few alternative providers.
- La **QLD | Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 | s 84 |** Legalised assisted suicide with individual conscience protections for practitioners but no institutional protections for Christian healthcare facilities.
- Li **SA | Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021 | ss 5–6, 11 |** Decriminalised abortion and compelled objecting practitioners to inform or transfer care to a willing provider, with no conscience protections for Christian institutions.
- Li **SA | Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 | ss 10–11 |** Legalised assisted suicide; Christian facilities may refuse but must facilitate patient transfers, creating ongoing involvement in the process.
- Li **TAS | End-Of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act 2021 | ss 20, 40, 64 |** Legalised assisted suicide with individual conscience protections for practitioners but no institutional protections for Christian healthcare facilities.
- La **VIC | Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 | ss 5, 10–11 |** Criminalised pastoral conversations, prayer ministry and biblical teaching on sexuality and gender—explicitly including religious practice—with penalties up to 10 years' imprisonment, applying to consenting adults.
- La **VIC | Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Act 2021 | s 82A |** Narrowed religious hiring exemptions to roles where religious conformity is an inherent requirement, subject to a reasonableness test—restricting Christian organisations' ability to employ staff who share their faith.
- La **WA | Children and Community Services Amendment Act 2021 | s 124BA |** Required clergy to report child abuse disclosures made in the sacrament of confession, compelling clergy to breach the confessional seal under threat of criminal penalty.
- La **WA | Public Health Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Act 2021 | ss 202O–202P |** Introduced 150-metre safe access zones around abortion facilities, prohibiting any communication relating to abortion likely to cause distress—capturing prayer vigils, counselling and public witness.

2022

- La **Commonwealth | Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Legislation Amendment (Respect at Work) Act 2022 | ss 28M, 47C |** Introduced a positive duty to eliminate workplace harassment and a prohibition on hostile workplace environments, exposing Christian employers to complaint for expression about sexuality or gender.
- Co **NSW | Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 | ss 9, 15, 89 |** Legalised assisted suicide; Christian facilities may refuse but must facilitate transfers and allow access, limiting the institutional conscience protections for aged care providers.

- La **NT | Anti-Discrimination Amendment Act 2022 | ss 17, 23 |** Repealed the dedicated religious exemption for Christian schools, limiting ethos-aligned employment and exposing staff to discrimination complaints for upholding Christian beliefs on sexuality or gender.

2023

- La **NSW | Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Vilification) Act 2023 | s 49ZE |** Introduced civil religious vilification prohibitions, creating complaint exposure for Christian expression about other religions, though good-faith religious discussion and instruction are exempted.
- La **QLD | Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Act 2023 | ss 39–40, 47, 58 |** Introduced pure gender self-identification for adults and minors, deeming altered sex binding under Queensland law, pressuring Christian schools and organisations to align with state-recognised gender.
- La **QLD | Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 | ss 52A–52B |** Strengthened vilification offences covering sexuality and gender identity and introduced hate-crime aggravating factors, creating chilling effects on Christian expression.
- La **WA | Abortion Legislation Reform Act 2023 | ss 202MC, 202ME, 202MH–202MI |** Removed gestational limits up to 23 weeks and permitted abortions up to birth, compelling objecting practitioners to refer or transfer care, with no conscience protections for religious institutions.
- La **ACT | Health Infrastructure Enabling Act 2023 | ss 8–9 |** Enabled compulsory acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital, establishing that Christian healthcare providers can be forcibly dispossessed when their ethos conflicts with government policy.

2024

- La **Commonwealth | Australian Human Rights Commission Amendment (Costs Protection) Act 2024 | s 46PSA |** Replaced balanced costs discretion in discrimination proceedings with an applicant-favouring regime, incentivising litigation against Christian schools and organisations.
- La **Commonwealth | Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 | Sch 2 |** Introduced a statutory tort for serious invasions of privacy, with broad drafting and no religious expression exemption, creating complaint exposure for Christian expression online regarding sexuality or gender identity.
- La **NSW | Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024 | ss 3, 5–6 |** Criminalised sustained practices aimed at changing or suppressing sexual orientation or gender identity—capturing pastoral counselling and prayer—with penalties up to five years' imprisonment, applying to consenting adults.
- La **NSW | Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Act 2024 | s 32B, Sch 8 |** Introduced pure gender self-identification with no medical requirement and expanded surrogacy-based family recognition, increasing institutional pressure on Christian schools and organisations to accommodate gender ideology.
- La **SA | Conversion Practices Prohibition Act 2024 | ss 4, 6–7 |** Prohibited sustained practices aimed at changing or suppressing sexual orientation or gender identity, leaving judges to determine whether extended Christian pastoral ministries cross the threshold.
- La **WA | Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Act 2024 | ss 36J–36K |** Streamlined sex and gender changes on birth certificates, extending to minors from age 12, pressuring Christian schools and organisations to accommodate state-recognised gender in records and facilities.
- La **WA | Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Application Act 2024 | s 5 |** Replaced Western Australia's 2010 adopting Act, maintaining AHPRA's disciplinary jurisdiction over Christian practitioners' expression outside clinical settings.
- La **ACT | Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2024 | ss 9, 104–105 |** Legalised assisted suicide with no institutional conscience protections, compelling Christian facilities to allow access and facilitate patient transfers under threat of criminal penalty.

2025

- La **Commonwealth | Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Act 2025 | ss 80.2A–80.2B, 80.2BA–80.2BB |** Strengthened hate crime offences with a recklessness standard covering sexual orientation and gender identity, increasing legal risk for Christian expression.
- La **NSW | Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Act 2025 | Sch 1 |** Expanded abortion provision to nurse practitioners and midwives, and strengthened mandatory transfer of care obligations for objecting practitioners.
- La **VIC | Justice Legislation Amendment (Anti-vilification and Social Cohesion) Act 2025 | ss 102B, 102D–102E |** Replaced existing vilification law with broader provisions covering sexuality and gender identity, adopting a victim-perspective threshold with no proof of harm, exposing sermons, teaching and online commentary to complaint.
- La **WA | Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Act 2025 | ss 21, 32 |** Extended assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy access to same-sex couples and singles, redefining parentage contrary to Christian teaching, with no conscience protections for Christian providers.

Totals = 61 under Labor, 7 under leftwing Coalition/6 under Liberal governments, a result of socialist, exclusive secularist, anti-Christian worldviews.