



Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: CAPS/AT – TF/21/3883 – DOC/21/39916

30 MAR 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3452-21 about State Government assistance to religious organisation which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 24 February 2021.

As I outlined in my response to petition 3380-20 tabled on 9 December 2020, State Government assistance, exemptions, subsidies or funding is provided to organisations solely on the merit of each case before the government for consideration. The religious views of an organisation are not sought or taken into consideration in making such decisions.

Further to my previous response, I reiterate to the petitioners that the *Human Rights Act 2019* (the Act), which my Government introduced into the Parliament, protects 23 human rights which public entities must uphold when they make decisions, create laws, set policies and provide services.

Two of these rights are the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief (section 20 of the Act) and the cultural rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28 of the Act).

My Government believes in the right of every person to have the freedom to adopt a religion or belief of the person's choice, and to not be coerced or restrained in a way that limits the person's freedom to have or adopt that religion or belief.

Equally, my Government believes that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold distinct cultural rights as the first Australians and must not be denied the right to live life as an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander person who is free to practise their culture.

Indeed, my Government has a deep respect for First Nations culture, reflected through our commitment to a treaty-making process with First Nations peoples.

As outlined in my previous response, my Government respects all the human rights outlined in the Act, as part of our decision-making processes.

Finally, if any petitioner holds to a view that another person or organisation is denigrating Aboriginal peoples or Torres Strait Islander peoples, then the petitioner may wish to consider contacting the Queensland Human Rights Commission on 1300 130 670 or by email at enquiries@qhrc.qld.gov.au to discuss their concerns with them.

I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE**