

**Religious Freedom Roundtable**

**Australian Human Rights Commission**

**Level 3, 175 Pitt Street**

**Sydney**

**Thursday 5 November 2015**

**Agenda**

**Facilitator – Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson**

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| *8:45am – 9am* | *Arrival and tea/coffee* |
| 9am – 9:15am | Introduction from the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC  |
| 9:15am – 9:30am | Introduction from the Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson |
| 9:30am – 9:45am | Introductions – all participants |
| 9:45am – 10:30am | **Introductory session***Discussion:** Objectives and parameters of the Religious Freedom Roundtable.
* Guiding principles for the Roundtable.
* Additions to the Agenda.
* *Religious Freedom Roundtable – Issues Paper*: What are the key issues for religious communities in relation to contemporary public policy in Australia? Are there priority issues for discussion?
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| *10:30am – 10:45am* | *Morning tea* |

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| 10:45am – 12:30pm | **Overview of challenges facing religious freedom***Discussion:** What are the key issues for religious communities in relation to contemporary public policy in Australia?
* Government laws and regulations that respect the right to religious freedom.
* Government laws and regulations that limit the right to religious freedom.
* Preserving religious freedom when an organisation receives taxpayer’s money to provide a public service.
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| *12:30pm – 1:30pm* | *Lunch* |
| 1:30pm – 2:30pm | **Overview of challenges facing religious freedom (continued)***Discussion:** What are the key issues for religious communities in relation to contemporary public policy in Australia (continued)?
* Accommodating rights – what are the areas of shared agreement?
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| 2:30pm – 3:30pm | **Advancing religious freedom, preserving social cohesion***Discussion:** What mechanisms can be developed to support religious inclusion and social cohesion?
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| *3:30pm – 3:45pm* | *Afternoon tea* |
| 3:45pm – 5:00pm | Conclusions from the Roundtable and next steps. |
| *5:00pm* | *Religious Freedom Roundtable concludes.* |