



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

February 8, 2018

### **Religious Freedom Review – be sure to have your say before February 14**

MARANOA MP David Littleproud said religious freedom was raised as an area in need of protection, during the same-sex marriage debate in Australia, and has urged you to have your say on this important issue before the review closes on February 14.

“During the conversation surrounding same-sex marriage, the protection of parental rights, religious freedom and free speech were consistently raised and – if these issues matter to you – be sure to have your say on the Religious Freedom Review before it closes next week,” Mr Littleproud said.

“As your Maranoa representative in the Federal Parliament, I always said I’d use my vote on the same-sex marriage bill in accordance with my electorate’s postal plebiscite result.

“In the end, 56.1% of my constituents voted against legalising same-sex marriage and this Religious Freedom Review is the opportunity for people to again have their say.

“On December 7, 2017, I raised my voice – the voice of Maranoa – in the House of Representative to say “no”, causing the House to divide on the same-sex marriage bill. Maranoa returned a no-vote and I believe I owed to the people of my electorate to cast my vote accordingly.

“I kept my promise to Maranoa and I believe this review is also important as religious freedom was an area of concern which was often raised with me during the debate.”

The Coalition Federal Government has appointed the Hon Philip Ruddock to examine whether Australian law adequately protects the human right to religious freedom.

The Prime Minister has asked Mr Ruddock to report his findings by March 31, 2018.

Mr Ruddock has most recently served as Australia’s Special Envoy for Human Rights. In his many years in public life, he has maintained a steadfast commitment to cultural and religious diversity in this country.

Mr Ruddock will be assisted by an expert panel consisting of the recently appointed President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, the Hon Annabelle Bennett AO SC and Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO.

The panel is being supported by a Secretariat within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and is accepting initial submissions on the matters raised in its Terms of Reference until February 14, 2018.

For more information on the Religious Freedom Review, including how to make a submission, please visit: <https://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/religious-freedom-review>

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