



**Australian
Human Rights
Commission**

Religious Freedom Roundtable

Australian Human Rights Commission

Level 3, 175 Pitt Street

Sydney

Thursday 5 November 2015

Agenda

Facilitator – Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson

8:45am – 9am	<i>Arrival and tea/coffee</i>
9am – 9:15am	Introductions – all participants
9:15am – 9:30am	Introduction from the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC
9:30am – 9:45am	Introduction from the Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson
9:45am – 10:30am	Introductory session <i>Discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objectives and parameters of the Religious Freedom Roundtable.• Guiding principles for the Roundtable.• Additions to the Agenda.• <i>Religious Freedom Roundtable – Issues Paper</i>. What are the key issues for religious communities in relation to contemporary public policy in Australia? Are there priority issues for discussion?
10:30am – 10:45am	<i>Morning tea</i>

10:45am – 12:30pm	<p>Overview of challenges facing religious freedom</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the key issues for religious communities in relation to contemporary public policy in Australia?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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.
12:30pm – 1:30pm	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
1:30pm – 2:30pm	<p>Overview of challenges facing religious freedom (continued)</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the key issues for religious communities in relation to contemporary public policy in Australia (continued)?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Accommodating rights – what are the areas of shared agreement?

2:30pm – 3:30pm	Advancing religious freedom, preserving social cohesion <i>Discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What mechanisms can be developed to support religious inclusion and social cohesion?
3:30pm – 3:45pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>
3:45pm – 5:00pm	Conclusions from the Roundtable and next steps.
5:00pm	<i>Religious Freedom Roundtable concludes.</i>