



Victorian Council of Churches

(Inc.A0036552E)

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Australian Christian Lobby does not represent all Australian Christians, nor all Christian viewpoints

The Executive of the Victorian Council of Churches today expressed dismay at the one-sided view of Christianity portrayed in the Australian media.

“There are well-organised and well-financed lobby groups who routinely present their views as “the” Christian position”, General Secretary Theo Mackaay said. “The community needs to know that there is a range of views held on many topics in the Christian tradition, just as there are numerous views in all areas of human endeavour. It is important that no one view captures the attention of the community, of the media and of government.”

“Some groups adopt a threatening stance in their commentary, seemingly to declare ‘debate closed’ when our nation needs as wide an engagement as possible to honour the diversity in our community. “

“Healthy debate does require input by various view points and understandings, but the VCC expresses deep concern that media portrayal of statements from an established and narrowly focused lobby group is presented as being representative of the entire Christian Community.”

“Australian Christian Lobby Pty Ltd (ACL) is a voice in the community that presents a particular Christian view on a range of issues, usually based on a fundamentally conservative view of the Christian faith.”

The VCC consists of 30 member churches of mainstream Christianity, and acknowledges a variety of emphases and input on many areas of social and political importance. As a body, it considers carefully many positions and enables a safe environment to prayerfully discuss and discern theologically differing viewpoints.

The VCC provides opportunity for leaders and church members to collegially contribute to issues of social importance, and facilitates regular meetings with the elected government on matters of social importance.

On matters of public concern and morality, the VCC encourages the community and elected leaders to consider carefully all matters before it without the need to threaten or admonish.

The VCC also notes that there is a growing concern amongst member churches that their voices are not heard or considered because of the media’s reliance on groups like ACL.

“The VCC encourages continued reflection and discernment with respect to current debates on issues like the sanctity of marriage, and acknowledges that it is up to each faith group to respond according to their traditions and reason,” Mr Mackaay concluded.

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