

July 2010

Dear NSW ACL Supporter,

Recent events in Canberra have demonstrated that in politics, things can change very quickly. NSW is no different and there have been a number of developments in state politics since our last update.

Thank you to the thousands of ACL supporters who signed the Save Our Scripture petition. As well as involving ACL supporters, the petition was distributed and signed by a number of churches and in some cases was distributed throughout entire denominations.

In June I presented 50,000 signatures to the NSW parliament from people who made a stand to support Special Religious Education. This is an extraordinary effort on the part of the church and will certainly help to keep the pressure on the Government to change its position. Under parliamentary rules the NSW Education Minister, Verity Firth, must now respond to the petition in writing. I look forward to sharing her response with you.

Also in June, independent MP for Sydney, Clover Moore introduced the *Adoption Amendment (Same Sex Couples) Bill 2010*. As well as legalising gay adoption, the bill would force Anglicare and CatholicCare to facilitate adoptions to same-sex couples. Both the Government and Opposition have given their members a conscience vote on the issue. Disappointingly, Premier Kristina Keneally has publicly given in principle support to the bill.

Of course our primary focus over the last couple of months has been the *2010 Make it Count* event in Canberra with Mr Rudd and Mr Abbott. The event was a tremendous success and brought together church leaders from right across Australia to hear from our political leaders.

I believe we were able to demonstrate to the major political party machines, the size and importance of the Christian constituency. Importantly, though, the two political leaders were presented with a united church that had come together out of an interest and concern for the future of our nation. Thank you to all the churches that participated in the event by hosting a screening of the webcast.

Thank you for your support and your prayers. Please continue to pray for ACL as we head into the federal election period. Please also remember me in your prayers in the lead up to the conscience vote on same-sex adoption.

Yours sincerely



David Hutt
NSW Director



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