

## Religious Freedom Review

### Meeting with the Expert Panel: Reflections

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet invited the local Christian leaders who had prepared a Religious Freedom Resource to meet with the Expert Panel on Tuesday 27 February 2018, as part of the Expert Panel's face-to-face consultations in Adelaide.

The Hon Philip Ruddock and Father Frank Brennan SJ AO were present together with their Secretariat.

Rev Sue Ellis, Uniting Church SA, Professor Rick Sarre, Law School, UniSA, Rev Sandy Boyce, Pilgrim Uniting Church, Rev Dr Greg Elsdon, Pilgrim Uniting Church, and I represented the wider group of leaders.

The aim of the review of religious freedoms in Australia is to examine whether Australian law adequately protects the human right to freedom of religion. More than 16,000 submissions were received. For details, see <https://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/religious-freedom-review>

We were encouraged to hear that the Panel has already met with people from a wide range of faiths and religions, and, as they head to Northern Territory, will be listening to Indigenous peoples.

Overall, we considered we had a good hearing, and an opportunity to name the need and responsibility of religions and governments to be creating harmony and non-divisive/dualistic attitudes and behaviour together.

To view the Resource that was prepared by the local Church leaders, see [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au)

For other report and for photo see [http://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/religious-freedom-consultation?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Uniting%20Church%20e-News%20-%2028%20February%202018&utm\\_content=Uniting%20Church%20e-News%20-%2028%20February%202018+CID\\_4dfe8a26ef824b55a43eccf3702bbcac&utm\\_source=Campaign%20Monitor](http://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/religious-freedom-consultation?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Uniting%20Church%20e-News%20-%2028%20February%202018&utm_content=Uniting%20Church%20e-News%20-%2028%20February%202018+CID_4dfe8a26ef824b55a43eccf3702bbcac&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor)

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