



Religious Liberty Lecture and Conference

The University of Notre Dame Australia School of Law and Business will hold its 11th Annual Religious Liberty Lecture on Thursday 11th September 2025 - 5:30pm for 6pm. Annual Religious Liberty Conference at St Bens Hall 104 Broadway on Friday 12th September 2025 from 9am.

The Lecture will be delivered this year by our own Professor Keith Thompson. It is entitled 'Why not protect religious liberty? Why should 'harmless' religious belief and action be proscribed by general law?'

Keith's previous publications on religious liberty include the following books (either as author, editor or co-editor), Religious Confession Privilege and the Common Law (2011), Religious Freedom in Australia – a new Terra Nullius? (2019), Inclusion, Exclusion and Religious Freedom in Contemporary Australia (2021), Current Issues in Law and Religion (2021), Religious Confession and Evidential Privilege in the 21st Century (2021), Christianity, Ethics and the Law, The Concept of Love in Christian Legal Thought (2022), and The Economic Impact of Religion on Society in Australia (2023).'

The conference will include separate speakers addressing these questions:

- Value pluralism
- Proposed anti-discrimination law reform in NSW
- Implicit and explicit natural law
- Anti-vilification law and the Haddad Case
- The Victorian Inquiry into the Recruitment Methods and Impacts of Cults and Organized Fringe Groups
- Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)
- The boundaries between free speech, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia
- Indigenous spirituality, public ceremonies and religious freedom
- These addresses will be followed by a panel discussion by Christian, Jewish and Islamic members of our staff addressing the question - Is domestic conflict inevitable in times of international conflict?

The Lecture will be followed by the presentation of a special interfaith dialogue award.

RSVP 29 August 2025 | email: l&bevents@nd.edu.au

Please specify any dietary requirements.