



Religious Liberty Lecture and Conference

In association with the Affinity Intercultural Foundation, Freedom for Faith and the Sikh Association of Australia, the University of Notre Dame Australia's School of Law and Business will hold its 12th Annual Religious Liberty Lecture on Thursday 17 September 2026 beginning at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start.

The Annual Religious Liberty Conference will be convened on Friday 18 September 2026 from 9am.

The lecture this year will be delivered by our former Head of School, Emeritus Professor Michael Quinlan. It is entitled, 'State interests and the freedom of thought, conscience and religion of individuals in NSW'. Michael's previous publications in this field include his editorial role in *Religious Freedom in Australia – a new Terra Nullius* (2019), *Religious Freedom in Australia – The Challenge of Inclusion* (2020) and articles titled 'An unholy patchwork quilt: The inadequacy of protections of freedom of religion in Australia', 'In the Heart of the Church: The Church, the Catholic University, and the State in Australia', 'Talking the Right Way Back', 'Born (Again) This Way: Why The Inherent Nature of Religiosity Requires a New Approach to Australia's Discrimination Laws' and 'The exclusivity demands of religion meet the exclusivity demands of inclusion: the case for a new approach to inclusion in Australia'.

The conference on Friday will feature five panels of three speakers, each addressing the following themes:

- Religious liberty is not only for the majority: why Australia must protect visible faith
- Faith schools under pressure: can religious education survive without religious character?
- Faith leaders after Bondi: silence, courage and the moral cost of looking away
- Religious liberty and public safety: drawing the line between faith, hate and violence
- Building social cohesion in a time of division: the role of dialogue, faith and community leadership

RSVP by Thursday 10 September 2026 to l&bevents@nd.edu.au

Please specify any dietary requirements.

Location information

St Benedict's Hall
(behind St Benedict's Church)
The University of Notre Dame Australia
104 Broadway, Chippendale, NSW, 2008

Please note – no on-site parking is available; paid parking is available in the Broadway Shopping Centre, – first 2 hours free.

