

**RESPONSES BY SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL THE HON. MARK  
DREYFUS MP QC TO QUESTIONS PUT AT *RE-EMERGE 2022***

**What would you do, if elected, about the perceived politicisation of the judiciary and tribunals?**

Over the last nine years, the Liberals have appointed more than 90 former Liberal politicians, failed candidates, political staffers and other Liberal Party insiders to positions on the AAT. If Labor is elected on May 21, we would return to the merits-based, transparent and accountable appointment processes we applied when we were last in Government, not only for the judiciary and tribunals, but also for important bodies like the Australian Human Rights Commission.

**Would a Labor government pursue the religious discrimination bill?**

In a statement issued shortly after Mr Morrison abandoned the Religious Discrimination Bill he promised more than three years ago, Labor leader Anthony Albanese issued a statement making clear that Labor believes all Australians have the right to live their lives free of discrimination, and that if elected, a Labor Government would seek to enhance legal protections in a way that brings Australians together, drawing on the bonds of our common humanity. To that end, if elected Labor has committed to legislate to:

- prevent discrimination against people of faith, including anti-vilification protections;
- act to protect all students from discrimination on any grounds; and
- protect teachers from discrimination at work, whilst maintaining the right of religious schools to preference people of their faith in the selection of staff.

**The Human Rights Commission's status as a category A institution is being questioned by the UN: what changes would you make to secure its category A status?**

I was deeply concerned when I was informed last month that the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Subcommittee on Accreditation had issued a warning that the Australian Human Rights Commission may no longer be compliant with the UN Principles on National Institutions (known commonly as the Paris Principles). The Subcommittee made clear that this was a direct consequence of threats to the AHRC's independence arising from decisions by this Liberal Government to appoint commissioners with strong links to the Liberal Party, in breach of the basic requirements for transparent, merit-based appointment of commissioners that Australia once championed. All three of the appointments that have occurred in breach of the Paris Principles were made by this Liberal Government. If Labor is returned to office we will return to the merits-based, transparent and accountable appointment processes we applied when we were last in Government, consistent with the Paris Principles, and we will engage with GANHRI regarding any other steps that may be required to protect the independence of the AHRC so to ensure it retains its category-A status.