



CHURCH OF THE FLYING SPAGHETTI MONSTER AUSTRALIA

22 May 2017

Press Release

On behalf of the CFSMA I am delighted to announce that the Hon. Melinda Pavey, NSW Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, has confirmed that the present policy enforced by RMS regarding religious head coverings in driver's licenses (that specifically named Pastafarians as being subject to discrimination by not allowing our chosen head covering to be worn) will be changed. The new policy will reflect the fact that NSW Government Departments will show respect and consideration towards all people who wear a head covering. When the new policy is implemented, people will no longer have their stated religion checked against a list of 'recognised' religions.

We would sincerely like to thank the Minister for respecting religious equality and equality in general. We would also like to thank the member of our congregation who has spent over a year having a respectful dialogue with the RMS and various elected representatives to have this issue of discrimination resolved in such an admirable manner.

Any questions can be directed to the undersigned.

Tanya Watkins

Captain

Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster Australia

pastafarians.org.au

cfsma@optusnet.com.au

Ph 0422 150515



The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP
Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight

19/5/17

Reference: BN16/00730

The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Lands and Forestry
Minister for Racing
Member for Bathurst
PO Box 2237
BATHURST NSW 2795


Dear Minister,

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], about wearing religious headwear for a NSW driver licence photo.

I appreciate the reasons which prompted [REDACTED] to write.

NSW Government agencies must respect and show consideration to customers who wear partial or full head-covering garments for health, safety, cultural, or religious reasons.

Roads and Maritime Services has been reviewing its policies regarding identity cards to ensure consistency with Australian Government agencies such as the Australian Passport Office.

I am pleased to advise Roads and Maritime will be implementing changes to its driver licence photo guidelines in regard to religious or cultural headwear. This means a customer's stated religion will not be checked against a list of recognised religions.

The new guidelines will require head coverings to be worn in such a way as to show the face from the bottom of the chin to the top of the forehead, and with the edges of the face visible.

If [REDACTED] has any further questions, Ms Irene Siu, Manager Licensing Policy at Transport for NSW, would be pleased to take his call on (02) 8265 7440 or email at irene.siu@transport.nsw.gov.au.

I hope this has been of assistance.

Yours sincerely,


The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP
Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight

GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 ■ P: (02) 8574 7300 ■ nsw.gov.au/ministerpavey

pastafarians.org.au

cfsma@optusnet.com.au

Ph 0422 150515