



DiversityACT
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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29 September 2021

One Nation's NSW Education Bill

For immediate release

Diversity ACT Community Services is deeply concerned by the NSW Parliamentary Education Committee's report into One Nation's proposed amendment to education legislation. We have written to the NSW Premier, asking her to categorically reject the report and its findings, and to oppose One Nation's Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020.

Every student in NSW should have the opportunity to reach their potential, to learn with their peers, and feel a sense of belonging in their school.

But One Nation's NSW Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 harms trans and gender diverse students by denying their existence and preventing teachers and counsellors from supporting them. It allows parents to withdraw their child from a class or program which tells them LGBTIAQ+ people are just like everyone else.

This bill would:

- prohibit schools from teaching that trans and gender diverse people exist and should be treated with respect;
- prohibit school counsellors from affirming a trans or gender diverse student or providing them with any support or referrals to gender affirming support;
- put teachers at risk of losing their job when they support a trans or gender diverse student in affirming their identity;
- enshrine biological fallacies, and describe intersex people as disordered;
- allow parents to deny their children access to lessons in public schools which may contradict their political, social or personal values, including their views about LGBTIAQ+ people.

A parliamentary committee chaired by One Nation NSW's leader Mark Latham, has endorsed many aspects of the bill and made further recommendations directly attacking the safety and inclusion of trans and gender diverse young people at school. This parliamentary committee completely ignored the submissions from the LGBTIAQ+ community; indeed, only one community member was invited to speak with the committee. The recommendations in the committee report include preventing trans and gender diverse young people from being able to seek confidential support from their school counsellor, access toilets in which they feel safe, and take part in school sport.

Every child deserves a quality education in a school which supports and welcomes them. The Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 is in direct opposition to the goals of NSW education and must be opposed in the Parliament. We encourage all people in the Canberra region who value the safety and wellbeing of LGBTIAQ+ young people to join us in contacting the NSW Premier in opposition

to this Bill. If you would like some help formulating the letter, we recommend Equality Australia's online tool: <https://equalityaustralia.org.au/ignoranceineducationbill/>

What is Diversity ACT?

Diversity ACT Community Services is an LGBTIAQ+ support service and registered charity, located in Kambah. The organisation is community based and volunteer run, providing a service hub, social worker, support networks, groups, and community resources to assist the LGBTIAQ+ community of South Canberra and the broader ACT region.

Quotes

“LGBTIAQ+ young people need our love and support. They certainly don't need more trauma, which is what this bill will cause if passed by the NSW Parliament.” Megan Watts, President, Diversity ACT Community Services

Media enquiries

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Other information

Diversity ACT website: <http://www.diversityact.org.au/>

Diversity ACT facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/diversity.act/>