

Media Release:

One Nation's Education Bill: We must continue our efforts to stop One Nation from harming our education system and the wellbeing of our children

The Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 is:

- discriminatory and cruel.
- incompatible with existing laws and protections.
- injurious to fundamental human rights, including freedom of expression.
- harmful to teachers, students and education in NSW.
- unnecessary and, in some areas, incoherent.

Coalition of Civil Organisations and Peak Bodies Stand United

One Nation has engaged in political stunts and at times bizarre commentary outside of their sphere of expertise throughout hearings, including a lack of impartiality and not providing witnesses proper respect when giving evidence. Initially, only certain invited organisations were allowed to make submissions, though this was later changed (perhaps not without some discouraging effect on would-be submitters).

The survey questions appeared to be slanted towards answers which reflected favourably on the Bill. The majority report does not fairly represent the views of those who made submissions to the inquiry, the overwhelming majority of whom were opposed to the Bill.

Inquiry participants were selectively chosen to give evidence in a manner that appeared calculated to give an impression that stakeholder views were in support of the Bill. For example, the Parents and Citizens Association, the peak body representing parents in public schools, was not accommodated in order for it to give evidence to the inquiry – it was opposed to the Bill. The major church and religious groups against the Bill were not invited to give evidence.

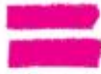
There was only one transgender witness and the views of transgender people seem to have been mostly ignored. Unfortunately, the report's recommendations were entirely predictable when approaching the inquiry with an eye on political expediency.

Knowing that the prohibition of acknowledging trans and gender diverse children in schools was too extreme to achieve passage through Parliament, it seems the Bill's proponents have found a way to achieve support for the less overtly authoritarian and cruel components of the Bill.

But make no mistake: if passed, these provisions will be profoundly damaging to the NSW education system, not least because they are fundamentally unworkable.

For media inquiries please contact Jack Whitney on 0411 387 913

Co-signed by below



Gay & Lesbian
Rights Lobby

Joint Public Statement

We represent a vast group of community and civil society partners and leaders in New South Wales (NSW) who place on the public record our strongest opposition to NSW One Nation's Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020. This legislation, introduced to the NSW Parliament by One Nation's Mark Latham, aims to outlaw the teaching of gender diversity and the acknowledgement of trans and gender-diverse students and their families and seeks to strip professional accreditation from any teachers and school staff breaking such a law.



Gay & Lesbian
Rights Lobby



Lord Mayor of City of Sydney
Council, Clr Clover Moore

