



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 – EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE EDUCATION AMENDMENT (PARENTAL RIGHTS) BILL 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 January 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education is currently conducting an inquiry into the Education Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 which is awaiting consideration and debate in the NSW Upper House.

If enacted in law, the Bill would stop New South Wales schools from providing instruction on ideologically-based and political material that is inconsistent with the wishes and values of parents. It would enshrine in law the rights of parents to withdraw students from the classroom where they object to such teachings.

The Bill aims to restore the rights of parents in NSW schools by ensuring they are fully consulted and aware of what's being taught in the classrooms of their children.

It supports the stated aim of NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell that overtly political content has no place in our classrooms.

In particular, the Bill seeks to prohibit the promotion of gender fluidity in schools, including through course development and continuing professional development of the State's teachers. It uses a definition of gender based on biological science, rather than 'social construction'.

The rights of transgender students to support and wellbeing in schools will not be affected by the Bill. But schools will not be able to push upon their students gender as something that is 'socially constructed', devoid of biological reality. The Bill insists on schools being evidence-based and 'following the science', including biology.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Mark Latham MLC said: 'The formation of a child's social, moral and ethical values should be the responsibility of his or her parents. This Bill is about winding back the creep of gender fluidity ideologies into NSW schools and re-establishing the primacy of parents in shaping their children's development and sense of identity.'

Mr Latham stated 'There are many fine teachers in our schools, but ultimately they come and go from the classroom and become strangers in the lives of most families. But parents are there 24/7 providing love, nurture and support for their children. They must have a valid right to ensure that what's taught in schools aligns with their family's values and priorities.'

'This inquiry will provide a forum for evaluating the merits of the Bill, subjecting it to detailed examination informed by expert evidence' Mr Latham added.

'There is also a chance for the public to have its say on the Bill via the Committee website, inviting community views and input.' Mr Latham concluded.

The Committee will hold public hearings in the coming months. Interested individuals are invited to have their say by completing an online questionnaire, open from 18 January until 28 February.

For information about the inquiry, including committee membership and the terms of reference, please [visit the committee's website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, on 9230 3682.