

Submission  
No 36

**INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT (PARENTAL RIGHTS) BILL 2020**

**Organisation:** just.equal

**Date Received:** 27 February 2021

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Brian Greig  
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NSW Parliamentary Inquiry  
Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020  
Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education  
[portfoliocommittee3@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:portfoliocommittee3@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

re: the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill  
2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Just.equal is a national, community-based LGBTIQ+ advocacy organisation. We were founded in 2016 and have a board representing LGBTIQ+ communities from across Australia. We have worked on a wide range of issues including LGBTIQ+ inclusion and equity in schools.

We strongly oppose the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020.

The Bill would ban any recognition of, or support for, trans and gender diverse students in NSW schools, and seek parental

permission for even discussing the existence of LGBTIQ+ people.

The Bill would put the mental health of students at risk, increase homelessness, family conflict and suicide, and undermine the fundamental right of all trans and gender diverse students to attend school.

The Bill resembles Clause 28 in the UK that was repealed because of its negative impact on LGBTIQ+ young people.

We agree with discrimination expert, Alastair Lawrie, that the Bill is "the worst legislative attack on LGBTI rights in Australia this century"<sup>1</sup>

We urge you not to support this Bill, nor any part of it, nor anything resembling it.

We recommend that, instead of wasting time on this deeply flawed legislation,

- a) the NSW Government fund programs that will affirm all LGBTIQ+ young people, including trans and gender diverse young people,
- b) the NSW Parliament amend the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act to protect transgender, gender diverse and people with variations of sex characteristics from discrimination and vilification, and
- c) the NSW Parliament pass laws that allow transgender and gender diverse young people to have gender affirming birth certificates and other state identity documents, and
- d) the NSW Parliament ban medically-unnecessary surgeries on children with variations of sex characteristics

In regard to the discrimination protections and gender recognition laws, we recommend the Australian best-practice standard set in Tasmania.

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<sup>1</sup> Alastair Lawrie, "NSW MPs can be champions for trans and gender diverse kids. Or bullies", February 14<sup>th</sup> 2021, <https://alastairlawrie.net/2021/02/14/nsw-mps-can-be-champions-for-trans-and-gender-diverse-kids-or-bullies/>

When the NSW Parliament agreed to an inquiry into the Bill, we began a webform allowing concerned residents of NSW to email the inquiry.

Because there is some uncertainty about whether these emails have reached the inquiry, we have attached the names and emails addresses of those who sent emails, as well as the text of the email they sent. The attachment is not for public disclosure.

If you have any questions of us please contact.

Best wishes,  
Brian Greig