

Submission  
No 59

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 11 August 2020

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Members of the Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education,

I am writing to you to ask you to reject the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020.

This is a highly dangerous bill. Everyone – from teachers, to principals, counsellors, and parents volunteering in the classroom or the tuckshop – must adopt an official silence on anything to do with trans and gender diverse people.

The consequences for teachers breaching this silence are severe: the Bill proposes amendments to the Teacher Accreditation Act 2004 (NSW) that would cancel the accreditation of any teacher who even acknowledges that trans and gender diverse people exist.

Trans and gender diverse students, who have disproportionately high rates of mental illness and suicide due to bullying and parental rejection, will have nowhere to turn for assistance. School counsellors, who are supposed to help all students, will be prohibited from even talking about gender identity issues with them. Children and staff will not be able to discuss their preferred pronouns and deadnaming will become standard practice.

This bill infringes on the rights of children to be safe and protected. It must not be enacted.

Additionally, this bill was put forward by Mark Latham and then sent for review to the Portfolio Committee chaired by Latham himself, and is therefore not an independent review.

I call on you to shut this down by rejecting the proposal.

Yours Sincerely,