

Children Education Bill

Submission

Climate change is a serious, even existential, issue for humanity and the environment. The coming generations that are receiving their education now will need to have the skills and knowledge to manage the issue and forge a new pathway for society focusing on sustainability and adaptation. This is not an issue that is being foisted on children's education, rather many children are particularly passionate about the environment and want to learn more. Not teaching about climate change would leave them unprepared for the challenges of the future. Indeed, children can already see the impacts of climate change happening around them, such as with the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfire season in Australia. Experiencing natural disasters or seeing them happen on the news can be scary and be detrimental to people's mental health (as even as an young adult I can attest to). Learning about climate change and being empowered to with knowledge and skills to adapt and be more sustainable can be a really positive thing. It takes a negative issue and then says, "what can we do about it?" There are some schools that are intergretating bushfire management into their curriculum, for example, which is a great program. On principle, I believe that more autonomy and direction in education should be given to the students themselves. They should be able to determine what they are interested in and what skills and knowledge they will need as adults and citizens.

I object to the Bill, particularly given the importance of education and skills around climate change.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.