

**Submission to the Senate's Education and Employment Legislation
Committee inquiry into the proposed Australian Education Legislation
Amendment (Prohibiting the Indoctrination of Children) Bill**

This submission is made by a private individual.

This Bill tries to prohibit the indoctrination of children. (surely a laudable aim). The key phrase in the Bill is "to ensure that school education in Australia provides a balanced presentation of opposing views on political, historical and scientific issues." In concept, the view that children need to be protected from dangerous ideas is supported. How much unsubstantiated rubbish can you tell a child before it becomes a form of abuse?

I'm not sure what the intent of the bill is but it seems to me to be problematic, in that one persons faith (eg that Jesus will come to save the world , so we don't need to act on climate change) is another's dangerous delusion. Under the proposal, would Catholic primary schools be required to present the beliefs of Mormonism and Scientology on an equal basis with Catholic doctrine? In relation to Science, should primary school children be taught opposing views about say "string theory', multiple universes or time? Should Flat Earth theory get a positive mention in the school curriculum, to avoid bias. It's a very subjective call. Until we can define what 'a balanced presentation' means, this Bill is unworkable.

Parliamentary time is expensive. Taxpayers fund it. The Senate should not waste any more time with this poorly drafted Bill.

Finally, the speeches made during the Second Reading were far too long and could have been reduced to essentially the points made in the first two paragraphs above. Too much time was spent on reinforcing party positions and causes, rather than dealing with the matter in hand in a succinct manner.