

Submission to Federal Parliament

*Australian Education Legislation Amendment (Prohibiting the Indoctrination of Children) Bill 2020*,  
submitted by Senator Pauline Hanson (Queensland).

Queensland Action Group for LGBTIQ+ Students (QAGLS)

In her speech on the proposed legislation Senator Hanson uses two examples of topics in need of intervention of the federal parliament: climate change, and gender diversity.

The proposed bill rightly presumes the value of presenting diverse points of view in classrooms. On climate change, there are debates about method but there is scholarly consensus that climate change is occurring. Refusal to accept this fact does not constitute a different point of view, it is ignorance. Legislatively mandated ignorance is unworkable in any Australian context.

The proposed bill rightly argues for the value of free speech. And yet, on the matter of the ten percent and more of school students who are same-sex attracted, gender diverse, or intersex, it would prefer that nothing is said – the diversity demanded in discussions on climate change is completely abandoned. Legislatively mandated suppression of free speech is unworkable in any Australian context.

Discussion of this bill is a waste of time for the federal parliament of Australia.

Dr Leigh Dale

Chair, QAGLS