

The Independent Education Union of Australia (IEUA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback regarding proposed amendments to the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority Act 2008* and *Australian Education Act 2013*.

IEUA represents ~75,000 teachers, support staff and ancillary staff in non-government education institutions across Australia and consistently engages in industrial and education debate at both national and state levels.

As a union of education professionals, we have a keen interest in content, pedagogy, processes and procedures for continued high quality teaching and learning, and any significant changes to existing provisions.

The IEUA submission addresses the amendment to the: *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority Act 2008* to require the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to force classroom practices so “that school education provides a balanced presentation of opposing views on political, historical and scientific issues”; and the amendment to the *Australian Education Act 2013* to make financial assistance to a state or territory conditional on the state or territory having certain laws in force.

The IEUA unequivocally rejects the proposed amendments and urges all federal parliamentarians to oppose the proposals.

The IEUA supports a liberal education, founded on democratic ideals and based on scientific principles, supported by facts.

The IEUA also recognises the highly professional nature of the teaching profession in Australia.

The IEUA notes and supports the faith-based non-government education sector as part of the public provision of education in Australia.

The IEUA believes that proposed amendments would undermine: teacher professional capacity; the nature of school education provision (including schools of a faith-based commitment); the high quality Australian curriculum; and the foundation principles of our liberal education commitment.

The IEUA contends that the amendments threaten to undermine the education of scientific facts and put the social cohesion and even health outcomes of Australian citizens at critical risk.

The IEUA rejects that notion that there a ‘balancing’ perspectives to scientific facts that should be presented in some manner to provide legitimacy to ‘alternative facts’.

The IEUA recognises that education of school students as the responsibility of the individual states and territories of Australia.

This legislation is further interference of the Commonwealth Government in state/territory matters.

The IEUA supports Section 2 of the Australian Education Act 2013 which is The Objects of the Act.

These amendments, specifically highlighting staff members, lie outside the objects of the Act and do not reflect the general nature of the document.

The IEU supports teachers, administrative staff, systems and governments in finding ways to reduce the high amount of administrative tasks required by school staff.

These amendments will add a further layer of red tape adding workload at administrative levels.

The IEUA recognises the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority as an independent statutory authority who receives direction from the Australian Education Council.

The IEUA believes this amendment to the ACARA Act would be further interference by the Commonwealth into the affairs of ACARA, and if it were ever necessary for such a direction to be given that this would be provided by the Education Council.

Chris Watt
Federal Secretary
Independent Education Union of Australia