

Item 10.10

Notices of Motion

Religious Discrimination Bill and Parental Rights Bill

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 proposed by One Nation's Member of the Legislative Council Mark Latham seeks to allow parents to remove their children from any lesson at a public school which contradicts their personal, social or political values in its current form;
 - (ii) the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 will effectively gag teachers in public schools from discussing any topic that may elicit a complaint from parents including LGBTIQ+ issues, climate change, Indigenous issues and history and the experiences of people with differing religious beliefs in its current form;
 - (iii) the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 precludes teachers at both private and public schools from recognising and supporting the gender identity of trans and gender diverse students in its current form;
 - (iv) Equality Australia has expressed opposition the Education Legislations Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 labelling it as "harm(ful to) trans and gender diverse students by denying their existence and preventing teachers and counsellors from supporting them";
 - (v) both the NSW Teachers Federation and the Independent Education Union made submissions to and gave evidence before the Legislative Council Committee inquiring into the Education Legislations Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020. Both organisations object to the Bill as it is unworkable and unsafe for both teachers and students;
 - (vi) the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 proposed by One Nation's Member of the Legislative Council Mark Latham seeks to prohibit discrimination based on religious beliefs and activities by placing religion above other human rights, the law and government rules in its current form;
 - (vii) the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 would allow faith-based organisations to be able to discriminate on the grounds of religion in employment, education and service delivery, even when receiving public funding in its current form;
 - (viii) the NSW Liberal Government has committed its support to adding religion to the state anti-discrimination bill; and

- (ix) Equality Australia opposes the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 as it affords protection on the basis of religion to activities that may otherwise be in breach of a personal or civil obligation;
- (B) Council condemn both the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 and the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to:
 - (i) write to the Premier, Attorney General and Minister for Education advocating against the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 in its current form and Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 in its current form; and
 - (ii) write to Labor Opposition Leader Chris Minns and the NSW Members for Sydney, Lake Macquarie, Wagga Wagga, Newtown, Balmain and Ballina seeking their opposition to both the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 and the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020.

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