A state newsletter of

FamilyVoice AUSTRALIA

VoxLink

Queensland

March 2016

PM calls for review of 'Safe Schools' program

Less than a week after FamilyVoice supporter Nathan Harding handed Malcolm Turnbull an open letter opposing the Safe Schools Coalition program, signed by 14,100 Australians, the PM called for a review of the program.



Nathan Harding (left) handed Malcolm Turnbull our open letter

The open letter and signatory details were presented to the PM at an afternoon tea organised by federal Liberal MP Luke Howarth in his Petrie electorate north of Brisbane on 17 February.

"The Prime Minister was happy to shake my hand and pose for a photo," Mr Harding said.

Former Deputy PM Warren Truss was also happy to receive and be photographed with the open letter, presented by FamilyVoice staffer Jerome Appleby on 27 January.

Four weeks later, new Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce spoke out against the Safe Schools Coalition (SSCA) program. He said Australia's mums and dads would not be happy with its "social entrepreneurship" (*The Australian*, 22/2/16).

Mr Joyce's concerns echoed those of SA Senator Cory Bernardi and Qld MP George Christensen. "I support anti-bullying programs," Mr Christensen said. "But I cannot understand how lining kids up in a classroom and asking them to imagine they have no genitalia would help anyone." Like FamilyVoice Australia, he is calling for the program to be defunded.

Finally, after several Coalition MPs raised concerns at a party room meeting on 23 February, the PM announced a review of the program – to be arranged by education minister Senator Simon Birmingham.

"I hope the review will be unbiased," said FamilyVoice Australia national director Dr David Phillips. "Senator Birmingham has already expressed some support for the program, and last year declined our request to discuss parental concerns. They include the program's pressure on confused young teens to 'come out' as homosexual, bisexual or transgender, even though sexual orientation is fluid at this age.

"The SSCA is promoting a book, *The Gender Fairy*, which tells children as young as four that they can decide whether they are a boy or a girl, regardless of their biological sex," Dr Phillips said. "This program is supposed to be about bullying. In reality, it is about ideology."

Frankston mum withdraws children

A Victorian mother has withdrawn her children from Frankston High School, citing concerns about the Safe Schools Coalition program. Her son had been told in science class that boys could wear dresses to school if they identified as female, and to refer to transgender people by their preferred pronoun.

"He's struggling with his times tables. He doesn't need to deal with this," she said. "You are either born a boy or a girl. I want my kids to value their body. " (*Herald Sun*, 7/2/16).

Copies of the fully documented FamilyVoice open letter can be downloaded from www.fava.org.au

New lockout laws welcomed

From July, Queensland pubs and clubs will need to stop serving alcohol at 2 am, or 3 am in 'party precincts'.

The bill, which was proposed after widespread concerns about alcohol-fuelled street violence, passed parliament in the early hours of 18 February after a long debate.

FamilyVoice Queensland director Andrew Lawton welcomed the new laws. He said alcohol-fuelled violence on the streets of Brisbane has been a big concern for many in the community.



Andrew Lawton

"It is clear from the evidence of other jurisdictions that these laws will have a significant effect on alcohol-fuelled street violence, making Queensland safer," he said.

Queensland Police Union president Ian Leavers said the laws are a boost for all emergency services.

"That means we're going to see less victims, less offenders," he told *news.com.au*. "It also means police will not be the subject of these vicious violent attacks."

Mr Lawton thanked Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk for their concern for young people.

"The well-being of our young people, innocent bystanders and our society as a whole should be at the forefront of this debate," he said.

New transgender rule 'wrong'

Australian tennis champion Margaret Court has slammed the new Olympic rule allowing some male athletes to compete with biological women.

Mrs Court, now senior pastor of the Victory Life Centre in Perth, told *VoxLink* that the change is a sad reflection of what is happening in society today.

"I believe a man is born a man and a woman is born a woman," she said. "But now we are playing by the wrong rules."

Until recently, male Olympic athletes could only compete as "women" after undergoing "gender reassignment" surgery. However, in late January this year, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a major change to its transgender policy. Men can now compete in the women's competition simply by declaring they are female, and by maintaining low testosterone levels for at least 12 months beforehand through hormone therapy.

The IOC claims the new rules will guarantee "fair competition". But in 2014, martial arts fighter Tamikka Brents found otherwise.

She was soundly beaten by Fallon Fox, a transgender fighter who had undergone surgery to look like a woman eight years earlier. Fox gave Brents concussion and a broken eye socket, even though Brents was widely regarded as an abnormally strong female fighter. Tamikka Brents said she had "never felt so overpowered".

Women's records could tumble

Under the new Olympic guidelines, transgender competitors are allowed to be far less "transitioned" than Fallon Fox. Mainstream media and feminist groups have been largely silent about this significant rule change.



Margaret Court: God created men and women to be complementary

Margaret Court says sporting records are unfairly set to tumble in the future.

"God created men and women to be complementary, not competitive," she said. "The LGBT community are demanding rights that are not theirs to take." ■

'Porn Harms Kids' symposium success

The 'Porn Harms Kids' symposium on 9 February gained widespread media coverage, and was the largest of its kind ever held in Australia.

More than 240 people who packed a University of NSW auditorium heard clear evidence of the disturbing impact of pornography on developing brains.

Speaker Dr Joe Tucci, a child and adolescent psychologist, said it has become impossible for children not to see porn.



Andrew Lawton

"There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of children sexually assaulting other children," he said.

FamilyVoice Queensland director Andrew Lawton said child exposure to online pornography is at crisis point.

"We must take steps to protect kids from its destructive influence," he said. ■

See page 4 for outgoing NSW director Dr David Sandifer's insightful article: *Why online porn is damaging kids' health.*

DL Legal

Supporting Christians in the marketplace and before the courts

Defending prolife advocate Graham Preston

Estate planning and litigation, family law and conveyancing

0412 715 937
randall.gibbens@dllegal.com.au

Senate voting may change

The Turnbull government is proposing to change the way Australians vote for the Senate – by allowing optional preferential voting for parties above the line on the ballot paper.

The current system is undemocratic, since writing a "1" in a box for one party above the line means preferences flow where the party, not the voter, has chosen. But the democratic solution would require voters to number *every party above the line* in order of preference – or number candidates individually below the line if preferred.



Senator Bob Day

The government's proposal, supported by the Greens and Senator Nick Xenophon, would allow voters to number just one box above the line, without indicating any preferences. That could eliminate all smaller parties. It would consolidate the power of the Coalition, the Greens and Senator Xenophon – who usually votes with the Greens, and ironically was first elected in SA with just 2.86% of the primary vote.

Family First Senator Bob Day spoke out against the change on 22 February. He said the government had done a "deal with the devil", predicting it would spell the death of minor parties.

"Contrary to what the government is saying, this radical change seriously disadvantages voters," he said. "The Greens and Nick Xenophon have been advocating for this change as it will permanently entrench them with the Senate balance of power."

Senator Day said Australians are familiar with the 'best and fairest' voting system and it should be kept. He has moved for a six-month delay to the proposed change so its implications can be properly investigated. ■

PUBLISHER:

FamilyVoice Australia
GPO Box 9894, Brisbane QLD 4001
phone: 1300 365 965 fax: 08 8223 5850
email: office@fava.org.au www.fava.org.au

PUBLISHED:

March, June, September, December

EDITORS:

Dr David and Mrs Roslyn Phillips

PRINTER:

Openbook Howden, St Marys SA 5042

EXTRACTS:

Articles or extracts from VoxLink may be used for other publications, provided that the reprint includes the following notice:
"Reprinted from VoxLink by permission of FamilyVoice Australia, www.fava.org.au."

Editorial

Making schools safe – for all

VoxPoint and *VoxLink* have long been warning readers about Safe Schools Coalition Australia's (SSCA) so-called anti-bullying program that focuses on and celebrates students who are LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer).

In Victoria, our state director Peter Stevens reported parental concerns back in 2010, soon after the state Labor government implemented it as a voluntary program devised by homosexual activists.

Three years later, the program moved beyond Victoria. A few weeks before the 2013 federal election, Labor Senator Penny Wong, an open lesbian, established $8 million in funding for the SSCA program. Tony Abbott's new government told us the contract must be honoured.

In 2014, we issued our open letter to the Prime Minister. We explained that the SSCA fails miserably as an anti-bullying program, since it ignores the most common forms of bullying – based on appearance, ability or ethnicity. A large Canadian survey has found that bullying based on sexual orientation or gender identity is not even among the top seven reasons for bullying.

We pointed out that the SSCA program has created *more* bullying – of students unwilling to support its political agenda that includes same-sex "marriage". We asked the PM to defund it.

More than 14,000 Australians signed and returned the open letters, which still flow into our national office. Finally, on 17 February this year, the Prime Minister received them – and a week later announced a review of the program, following pressure from a significant group of government MPs.

This is a great step in the right direction. But if the review merely recommends a rewrite of the most offensive parts of the program, its underlying political thrust will remain.

Some Queensland parents who tried to raise the issue at a school council meeting were told by the principal that discussion was not appropriate – the decision to join the SSCA was entirely hers. An SA parent who discussed it with her school principal found he did not understand the program's true nature.

At present the program is voluntary – but Victoria's Labor Premier Dan Andrews will make it compulsory for all state high schools by 2018.

After same-sex marriage became law in Massachusetts in 2003, school programs promoting the LGBTIQ agenda became compulsory. Could this happen here?

The SSCA must be replaced by a proven program addressing all forms of bullying.

Letters

Challenging times

We live in a time of great challenges, a time in which we often say: "I never thought I would live to see that happen". Every day, the forces of darkness push their foul agenda that seeks to undermine all that Christianity has given this nation.

We believe in the work of FamilyVoice as it makes a powerful statement. We pledge our prayer support and trust you will have an effective connection with the bodies that make decisions that impact various aspects of our lives.

Dr Wayne Weiler
Wishart, Qld

Be of good cheer

A past colleague of mine had a rather cynical saying: "No good deed goes unpunished". Based on the teachings of Christ, and from the Apostle Paul's letters, this saying is definitely true – and is not a new phenomenon.

Those on the front line may well expect a hammering from those opposed to the Christian message. Praise God that He will ultimately have the last laugh and we can be of good cheer – knowing that forewarned is forearmed. Praise God that He can sympathise with our frailties and that He is there with us and for us!

David Elliott
Mareeba, Qld

The education 'basics'

After 40 years as a primary school teacher, I know the importance of the two main "basics" – reading and spelling taught by phonics, and number facts taught by repetition for instant recall.

A neurosurgeon on TV a couple of years ago said repetition-learning of number facts is an excellent exercise for the brain. So it is – and the failure to use that method is a big factor in the "dumbing down" of children today.

Maisie Semple
Ferny Hills, Qld

Safe Schools Coalition

The Queensland LNP agrees with the intent of the Safe Schools Coalition program – that is, the prevention of bullying at school related to gender and sexual orientation. But we have concerns.

The material being provided to schools heavily promotes the website of an organisation called *Minus18*. Without supervision, the content of *Minus18's* website is age inappropriate.

Efforts by the LNP to stop Queensland school children being exposed to this website have, so far, fallen on deaf ears. I encourage you to contact the Queensland Minister for Education Kate Jones (education@ministerial.qld.gov.au; (07) 3719 7530) to let her know what you think.

Ros Bates MP
Member for Mudgeeraba, Qld

Don't be silenced

Congratulations on your *VoxBrief* on the school bullying problem (February 2016). I found it both encouraging and informative. As a former secondary school teacher, I am increasingly concerned at the burgeoning opportunities for bullying that social media affords school children.

I am also extremely concerned about the silencing of the Christian voice, both within the secular system and also Christian institutions.

Marianne Gill-Harper
Kinsgston, Tas



- Prime ministerial change: what does it mean?
- The truth about transgenderism: what every parent needs to know

+FavaOrgAu /familyvoiceaustralia

☐ I would like to subscribe to *FamilyVoice* publications ($64 per year). Please find enclosed cheque or debit my credit card:

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Expiry /

Cardholder:

Signature:

Name:

Address:

P/code:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to: **FamilyVoice Australia**
GPO Box 9894, Brisbane QLD 4001

Why online porn is damaging kids' health



Dr David Sandifer was a speaker at the Porn Harms Kids conference at the University of NSW on 9 February. His article below explains why the huge number of children viewing internet pornography is creating a long-term public health crisis.

Last April, the UK *Telegraph* ran a story on the way that porn exposure is impacting adolescents. The article quoted a GP who is now seeing young girls presenting with serious internal damage and sometimes incontinence. The reason? Rough treatment from their sexual partners – especially anal sex, which is now "standard among teenagers".[1] Boys are mimicking the porn they watch, and girls feel pressured to go along. In the words of the GP, "These girls are very young and slight and their bodies are simply not designed for that."

These girls did not come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. They were not abducted by strangers, or date raped. They were middle-class girls living the normal lives of teenagers today. Welcome to the new reality: it's a porn world, and we all live in it.

If you need further convincing, consider these statistics: according to one study, porn accounts for 37% of internet traffic, and in any given month porn sites get more users than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined. In a survey of 11-16 year old boys, *Pornhub* was named one of the 'top 5' most popular online destinations.

> **'In an analysis of the most popular porn scenes, 88% of them contained physical aggression and 94% of it was directed toward women.'**

Porn rewires young brains

In addition, we now know that exposure to pornography rewires the brain to alter sexual responses, and teenagers' brains are especially malleable. In a world where the average teenage boy will see thousands of sex acts before his first kiss, porn is increasingly shaping sexual expectations and desires. Sex researcher Gail Dines describes the ubiquity of porn today as "the largest unregulated social experiment ever". The Chief Superintendent of London's Metropolitan Police, John Sutherland, has described the sexualisation of young people as "catastrophic". In his words, those who try to "brush off the risks of allowing boys unrestricted access to hardcore footage are either wilfully ignorant or wilfully stupid".[2]

Where is the outrage?

Perhaps the only thing more shocking than this crisis is that we are not more shocked by it. Sure, an occasional article will draw attention to the epidemic – but the conversation typically ends with anaemic calls for more resources for parents and better education for kids. Appallingly, our society has accepted the present situation as more or less unavoidable – *if the "right" of adults to view what they please online sacrifices the innocence of children, well, so be it.*

And why have *Christians* been so silent on this issue? Surely we, of all people, know the power of thoughts to shape behaviour (Mark 7:23)? Surely we, of all people, feel the call to protect the most vulnerable in our society (Matt. 18:6)? Perhaps our fear of wowserism means we have surrendered any voice on sex related matters, however shocking the harm. Or perhaps we have been swayed by bogus libertarian arguments into believing that any regulation of adult content on the internet amounts to an attack on free speech – despite our regulation of every other form of media. Or perhaps the truth cuts more deeply: since surveys show that over half of Christian men look at porn monthly, could it be that the topic simply hits too close to home?

If there were no obvious solution to this crisis, still we would have a moral duty to find one. But that is not the case. The UK has introduced by-default filtering of adult content which is effective, affordable, and imposes minimal inconvenience on adults who want to access porn – they can simply opt out if they choose. The UK system (voluntary at this time, but with legislation planned) involves each internet service provider (ISP) setting up porn blocks. This removes concerns about government involvement and provides more robust protection than device-level software. While no system is perfect, ISP-level filters have been shown to be effective and have been welcomed by many internet users.

In early December, a Senate inquiry into child sexualisation was launched. This is a hopeful first step, but much work remains for a cultural shift to take place.

Where will Christians be in this battle?

In 1785, a young Cambridge student named Thomas Clarkson had an epiphany. Slavery, he realised, was not a nuisance to be tolerated but a great moral evil which stained Britain and shamed Christians. Little by little, other Christians were recruited to the cause – most famously William Wilberforce – and what started as an idealistic crusade became a topic of national debate. The status quo was challenged, and eventually, in 1807, the slave trade was abolished. Christians had their conscience awakened, and they awakened the conscience of a nation.

When it comes to children and porn, will 2016 be our 1785 in Australia?

1. "Pornography has changed the landscape of adolescence beyond all recognition", Allison Pearson, *The Telegraph,* 22 April, 2015
2. "Porn's effect on youth 'is catastrophic'", Chris Greenwood, *The Daily Mail*, 16 Sep 2016.

* This article was published in longer form online on 4 January by Bible Society Australia.

Trust
Tradition
Compassion
BURSTOWS
Funeral Care Since 1900
FREECALL: 1800 803 196
www.burstows.com.au
Wholly owned and operated by the Burstow Family
TBF 1109/ASF