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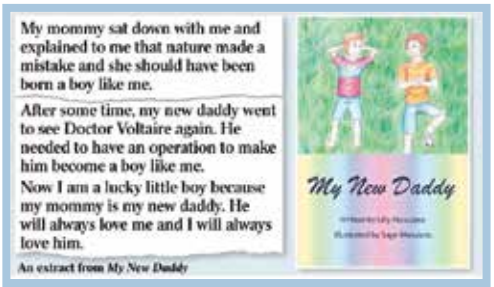
VoxLink

New South Wales

September 2016

'Safe Schools' program hits the headlines

FamilyVoice Australia has long been warning about the Safe Schools Coalition and other programs promoting homosexuality and transgenderism to young children. Now some mainstream journalists have begun to investigate – and are shocked.


My mommy sat down with me and explained to me that nature made a mistake and she should have been born a boy like me.

After some time, my new daddy went to see Doctor Voltaire again. He needed to have an operation to make him become a boy like me.

Now I am a lucky little boy because my mommy is my new daddy. He will always love me and I will always love him.

An extract from *My New Daddy*

My New Daddy

From the front page of* The Australian*, 16/8/16 – a book read to children aged 5 and 6

On 18 March 2016, FamilyVoice posted on Facebook a video of the "Safe Schools" Australia-wide program launch on 13 June 2014. Program founder Roz Ward of La Trobe University told the audience that the so-called "anti-bullying" program was actually "not about stopping bullying".

"It's about supporting gender and sexual diversity," she said. "Not just 'being nice to everyone, everyone's great'."

More disturbing revelations came last month. *The Australian* (16/8/16) reported that a recent Flinders University project supported by "Safe Schools" involved students aged five and six. Researchers read them six stories with transgender themes – such as a "mommy" turning into a "daddy" (and vice versa). Many of the children were confused, struggling with the message that sex "transitioning" is natural and normal. The next day, *The Australian* reported that the researchers had called for the "Safe Schools" program to be rolled out in all primary schools. They also wanted gender-neutral toilets in all schools.

Two days later (19/8/16), *The Australian* reported a new sex education guide, produced by the La Trobe University research centre responsible for the "Safe Schools" program. The resource asks year 10 students (aged 15 or 16) to consider an explicit list of 20 ways of "engaging in sexual pleasure", including anal "sex".

More journalists speak out

Daily Telegraph columnist Miranda Devine was the first to sound the alarm about the ideology behind "Safe Schools" in 2012. She has now been joined by other prominent journalists including Alan Jones, Andrew Bolt, Paul Kelly and Angela Shanahan.

Safe Schools Coalition critics have been smeared as "homophobes" and "bigots" – but students in supposedly "safe" schools have suffered even more abuse from classmates or teachers if they did not participate in the program's political activities.

Their parents have increasingly complained to their MPs. George Christensen, Cory Bernardi and others have raised the issue in federal parliament and the Coalition party room. By contrast, Labor has strongly backed the program it initiated.

On 17 February this year, FamilyVoice presented a 14,100-signature open letter to the Prime Minister, asking for "Safe Schools" to be replaced by a program addressing all forms of bullying. Six days later, Mr Turnbull announced a "Safe Schools" review.

New restrictions

On 18 March, federal education minister Simon Birmingham announced significant changes to the program – requiring parental consent; rewriting key sections; banning political activism; for high schools only; federal funding to cease in 2017.

Patrick Burford of the federal Department of Education told FamilyVoice last month that the department is working with the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), the national convenor of "Safe Schools", to implement Senator Birmingham's recommendations. The remaining $2 million funding depends on FYA fulfilling these requirements.

"This is a significant step forward," said FamilyVoice national director Dr David Phillips. "But even with these changes, the program is so flawed that it should be cancelled. Parents and children deserve a proven program that addresses bullying of any kind for any reason." ■

NSW petition on 'Safe Schools'

On 23 August, Epping Liberal MP Damien Tudehope tabled a petition signed by over 17,000 members of the NSW Chinese community in the NSW Legislative Assembly. The petition called on the Baird government to "stop the implementation of the Safe Schools Coalition Program in NSW schools" (see more on page 2).

Transgender warning

UK actor Rupert Everett says schools should not encourage children to 'change' their gender.



Rupert Everett

"[When I was a boy] I really wanted to be a girl," Rupert told the *Sunday Times* (19/6/16). "Thank God the world of now wasn't then, because I'd be on hormones and I'd be a woman. After I was 15, I never wanted to be a woman again."

Mr Everett's experience is like that of 80% of children with transgender feelings, who lose them before adulthood without any treatment. The "Safe Schools" program does not include this vital information. The number of Australian children seeking transgender treatment including hormones has soared from a few to hundreds since the Safe Schools Coalition first began. ■

Multicultural communities reject 'Safe Schools'

A petition against the controversial 'Safe Schools' program, signed by more than 17,000 members of the NSW Chinese community, is gaining support from other groups (see page 1).

Epping MP Damien Tudehope tabled the petition in the NSW Legislative Assembly on 23 August. *The Australian* reported (25/8/16) that Australia's Indian community is "similarly troubled" by the "Safe Schools" content.

The NSW petition is due for debate this month. It calls for the cancellation of the program in NSW schools, saying it "promotes a particular ideology, including gender fluidity, that is contrary to our cultural and belief system and discriminates against children and parents from other cultures who have a view of sexual relationships involving male and female as normative".

Mr Tudehope said: "Definitely there is a need to talk to kids about bullying, but it is clear that 'Safe Schools' is not the answer. A more inclusive program, which respects Australia's cultural and religious diversity, would deliver better outcomes for vulnerable students." (ABC News, 23/8/16)

The Baird government has backed restrictions outlined by the federal government in March – but despite the ban on primary school participation, some NSW primary schools are continuing their involvement. The Education Department has responded by removing the names of all participating NSW schools from the Safe Schools Coalition website.

FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips said the lack of transparency is a worry. "When parents are considering which school to send their children, this information is important – and should be readily available," she said. "'Safe Schools' has the potential to lead children with transgender feelings, who would otherwise grow out of them, down the path of lifelong drugs and irreversible surgery. The program does nothing to help the majority of bullied children."

Mr Tudehope said the "Safe Schools" program was a "Trojan horse … Any program which divides and polarises the community in such a way cannot possibly deliver the anti-bullying outcomes it proposes." (*Daily Telegraph*, 23/8/16)



Damien Tudehope MP

Christian Democratic Party MP Rev Fred Nile has said he would withdraw support for the Baird government unless it suspended "Safe Schools" as an approved NSW program (*Daily Telegraph*, 28/6/16).

NSW Greens' draconian abortion bill

On 11 August, NSW Legislative Councillor Dr Mehreen Faruqi introduced her Abortion Law Reform (Miscellaneous Acts) Amendment Bill, which would allow abortion for any reason throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips said the bill is "draconian".

"Abortion is not just a medical procedure like having your appendix out," she said. "Abortion destroys a living child who has different DNA and a separate body from his or her mother.

"That boy or girl in the womb, according to the International Covenant on the Rights of the Child, needs 'legal protection, before as well as after birth'. How can the NSW Greens, who say they support child rights, sponsor a bill that abolishes all pre-birth protection?"



Abortion destroys a human life

The Faruqi bill would deny freedom of conscience to pro-life doctors by forcing them to refer pregnant women seeking an abortion to other doctors with no conscientious objection to abortion. The bill would also ban protests "by any means" within 150 metres of an abortion facility – maximum penalty six months' jail or a $16,500 fine. Brisbane pro-lifer Graham Preston was fined $3000 under similar Tasmanian legislation in July, merely for standing peacefully near a Hobart abortion clinic with a sign saying: "Everyone has the right to life – Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

FamilyVoice Australia is urging all NSW MPs to reject the bill.

Same-sex 'marriage': no benefit

A Swedish study has found that 'married' homosexual men are nearly three times more likely than heterosexual married men to commit suicide.

The study, published in the *European Journal of Epidemiology* (May 2016), followed up thousands of couples on a detailed government database.

"Sweden is one of the most 'gay-friendly' nations in the world," said FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips.

"This study shows that legalising same-sex 'marriage' does not solve problems of depression and suicide in the homosexual community.

"High depression and suicide rates in people with same-sex attractions are also found in The Netherlands – where there is no stigma, and same-sex 'marriage' has been legal for over a decade.

"Changing the fundamental man-woman meaning of marriage has not led to the benefits promised by many in the mainstream media."

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Editorial

Whatever happened to human rights?

Last year, the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commissioner accepted a complaint against Hobart's Catholic Archbishop Julian Porteous, who was required to fund his own legal advice before attending a stressful, drawn-out conciliation process.

By contrast, the Anti-Discrimination Commission provided free legal advice to transgender Greens activist Martine Delaney – who complained that the Archbishop had breached section 17(1) of the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act. The Archbishop had sent a booklet gently explaining church teaching on marriage to parents who had chosen Catholic schools for their children – conduct that allegedly "offended" and "insulted" people like Delaney on the ground of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

> **"Section 18C has the potential to seriously damage reputations and livelihoods"**

Delaney reluctantly dropped the complaint in May – possibly because of Greens fears that the controversy could weaken their vote in the federal election on 2 July.

That case was in Tasmania, but an "offend and insult" complaint against three Queensland students, accepted by the Human Rights Commission, is ongoing.

The white students were ejected from an indigenous computer lab at the Queensland University of Technology in May 2013.

Upset, they posted some relatively mild comments on social media, including: "Just got kicked out of the unsigned indigenous computer room. QUT stopping segregation with segregation?"

Cindy Prior, the indigenous computer lab supervisor, lodged a complaint that the students had breached section 18C of the federal Racial Discrimination Act – asserting that their conduct had offended and insulted her on the ground of her race.

She said she had been unable to work since reading the comments, and is seeking damages of $250,000.

Section 18C, like section 17(1) in Tasmania, has the potential to seriously damage the reputation and livelihood of people who voice even mild opinions deemed by someone to be offensive or insulting.

But wait, there's more.

Laws now operating in Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT – and proposed elsewhere – prohibit any kind of protest, even silent prayer, near a facility where unborn children are put to death in the womb.

Kerry Mellor was arrested in April and fined $750 for walking silently past a Canberra abortion clinic while making the sign of the cross. Kathy Clubb was arrested near a Melbourne abortion clinic in August for politely offering to help women who were approaching it.

Graham Preston was found guilty and fined $3000 in July for peacefully holding a sign near a Hobart abortion clinic with the words: *Everyone has the right to life, Art 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*

Whatever happened to the fundamental human right to free speech?

Letters

Blatant bias on Q&A

A few months ago I was in the audience for the special ABC *Q&A* TV program entitled *Between a frock and a hard place*.

Rev Fred Nile MLC was a guest on the panel, which was stacked against him. He was the only one defending traditional marriage.

Like other members of the audience, I was invited to submit a question to someone on the panel. Mine was directed to homosexual activist Dennis Altman. I wrote: If 'equality' is the basis for changing the definition of marriage to include a man to man or a woman to woman relationship, then where do we draw the line - or is the real agenda not to draw the line at all?

My underlying thought was that polygamists, paedophiles and those who have sex with animals are waiting in the wings to see what happens on the same-sex marriage issue, and seeking legitimacy for their activities.

The producer rejected my question. He said this episode of *Q&A* was about changing community opinions on homosexuality, not same-sex marriage.

But on the night, I found that others in the audience *were* allowed to ask questions about same-sex marriage.

All [questions] were pro-gay. And all were directed at Fred Nile.

Pastor Geoffrey Satterly
Auburn, NSW

Nations can be conned

Few of the world's 193 United Nations member states have legalised same-sex marriage. In almost all cases it has been passed by a narrow margin of the legislature or imposed by activist judges.

The worrisome trend is media reports saying "when" rather than "if" same-sex marriage will be legalised.

We all know how nations can be conned. Hitler with the aid of Goebbels did it in Germany in the 1930s.

John Klose
Crescent Head, NSW

The rise of transgenderism

I have been deeply disturbed by the recent rise of "transgenderism". President Obama has ordered US schools, under penalty of losing their federal funding, to allow young males in the bathrooms and showers of young females (and vice versa). In at least one state, transgenderism is taught in kindergarten.

Of course, young males or females who feel they are the opposite sex need a compassionate response. But the President's order is not compassionate. Under the guise of helping one group, it tramples on the sensitivities of young females and males who have a right to privacy in bathrooms.

This is another vile attack on our children.

Pastor John O Anderson
Klamath Falls, Oregon USA



- Election winner: Barnaby Joyce
- 'Safe Schools': a parent speaks out
- Physical discipline: is it ever OK?

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Kerry says sorry

Kerry, born and raised in Australia, now lives in the US with her much loved husband and children. But in Sydney two decades ago she was a leading lesbian activist.

She has contacted VoxLink to tell her story – and to apologise.



I am deeply sorry for pressuring Australians to embrace homosexuality when I was featured in Australian media in the early 1990s.

A confident young lesbian at age 18, I was convinced I had found the solution to my troubled teen years. I fought for lesbian and feminist rights during my four year degree at Sydney University.

After graduation I became a Sydney City Council and NSW government public servant – on a mission to change Australia's culture. If you google "Kerry Parnell, Green Left Weekly", you can still find links to articles I wrote.

I addressed a rally of thousands in Sydney's Town Hall Square about fighting discrimination against gays and lesbians. I was on the front page of *Lesbians on the Loose*, and mentioned as a lesbian advocate in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*. *Ita* magazine did a feature on me as a lesbian, seeking to change Australian attitudes towards lesbians.

I was elected to the Board of Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby in 1994. Within days I met the woman I thought was the perfect match. In spite of her desire for us to marry, she eventually decided that two women don't belong together.

I was shocked, but curious about her belief that we could both adapt and become part of a man-woman marriage. I was also relieved to resign from the Lobby before transgender advocacy was official policy.

I fell in love with a San Francisco tourist in 1998. Knowing my background, he still trusted in the age-old tradition of man-woman marriage being flexible enough to accommodate me. Free from the doubters in my beloved Australia, we were married in San Francisco in 2000.

My role as a man's wife is in no way comparable to the role I would have if I were an Aussie woman's "wife". I could not have succeeded in marriage to my husband for the last 16 years if I had not been willing to change some attitudes I thought were part of me. It took humility, honesty, and hope.

But I didn't begin to see a need to apologise for my past actions until California changed the meaning of marriage about eight years ago.

The discussion brought to my attention the new school curriculum – teaching primary children to support same-sex marriage, and the lie that children are born homosexual.

Now, a year after homosexual marriage was legalised throughout the United States, changes that many people did not anticipate are quickly coming through.

I have witnessed the loss of freedom that has resulted from same-sex marriage being forced on the people in the United States – including bans on help for kids who don't want to identify as homosexual.

The safety of girls and women in bathrooms and changing rooms is now at risk, as boys and men are gradually being given access – another apparent consequence of genderless "marriage".

Even if you don't understand why anyone would be the way I used to be, please know that I am sorry. ■

Same-sex "marriage": what it really means

Katy Faust, raised in the US by 'two moms', tells Australians what they could expect if same-sex "marriage" is legalised here.



Sunshine Coast Daily

Katy Faust

I don't think the push for same-sex "marriage" is primarily responsible for the mess US families are in today. That began decades ago, with "no-fault" divorce.

But what same-sex "marriage" has done is remove gender as a basis for marriage. And because the government's interest in marriage is not romance but children, when you redefine marriage you redefine parenthood. You are now saying, "We no longer need mothers and fathers for marriage. They are optional – neither is necessary."

Now that is a sociological lie. It doesn't matter how a child loses a parent, it always inflicts a wound. Studies show that mothers parent differently than fathers – and those differences have incredible benefits for children. Biological connections matter for kids.

I am an adoptive mum. I have three biological children and one adopted. I am the biggest champion of adoption you will find. But when those kids come to their adoptive home, they do so after undergoing incredible loss. We cannot take a casual approach to any child who has to lose a biological connection with his or her parents – which is what happens when same-sex "marriage", and hence same-sex parenting, is normalised.

And if sex doesn't matter in marriage, it doesn't matter anywhere. It doesn't matter in school toilets or change rooms. If you think it does matter, get ready for the abuse: "Bigot! Hater!"

The US now has all sorts of coercive measures to control speech. An Oregon professor successfully sued her co-workers for not referring to her as "they" – her preferred pronoun. Her co-workers have to pay her $60,000 for this offence.

Australians are going to have to stand up at some point. Better do it now! ■

– from the Spring 2016 edition of AP (Australian Presbyterian)