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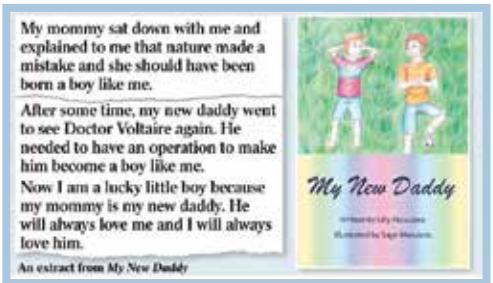
VoxLink

Queensland

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".

'Safe Schools' in Queensland

The Queensland Labor government has said it supports the federal government's changes to the Safe Schools Coalition program. However parents can no longer see the list of participating Queensland schools on the website (www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au) – making it harder to find out if their local school is teaching the potentially harmful ideology (see more, page 2).

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."

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.

New draconian abortion bill

A Queensland parliamentary committee has recommended that Rob Pyne's first Abortion Law Reform Bill be rejected. However he introduced a second, equally draconian bill on 17 August.

FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips gave evidence to the Queensland parliament inquiry on 1 August. She said Independent MP Mr Pyne's first bill was "horrendous". "Abortion is destroying a human life. It can never be treated as just another health procedure," she said.



Abortion destroys a human life

The first Pyne bill would repeal all mention of abortion in the Queensland Criminal Code, making it legal to destroy a child in the womb for any reason, right up until birth. The second Pyne bill, called the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill, would repeal the same laws.

Abortion would then be regulated as a medical procedure under the Health Act - making abortion legal for any reason up to 24 weeks' gestation. After 24 weeks, abortion would be banned unless two doctors reasonably believe that continuing the pregnancy would involve a greater risk of injury to the mother's physical or mental health.

Ros Phillips said despite this proviso, there is no guarantee of protection for women or their babies. "The doctors could be employed by an abortion clinic with a vested interest in the outcome," she said. "*Reasonable belief* is a very subjective term."

The second bill would also ban protest "by any means" within 50 metres of an abortion facility – maximum fine $3050. 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".

Mr Pyne wants both of his bills to be debated this month, even though the committee has not yet considered his second bill. "Why is this man in such haste to push through draconian legislation without allowing time to fully consider its disturbing implications?" Ros Phillips said.

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."

Don't miss our Annual Review

The keynote speaker for this year's FamilyVoice Annual Review at 2 pm on Saturday 17 September, 1 Cross Street Toowong, will be Dr Mark Robinson – MP for the bayside electorate of Cleveland.



Mark is passionate about helping to strengthen people's marriages – and he wants all Australians to have their say on what marriage means in a plebiscite. All are welcome to hear him at the Brisbane School of Theology on 17 September. Afternoon tea will follow.

'Safe Schools' in Queensland

More Queensland parents are finding out the controversial content of the Safe Schools Coalition program (see page 1).

Concerned parents have been signing petitions against "Safe Schools" and seeking to raise the issue with MPs, principals and school councils. The state government has responded by removing the names of all Queensland schools listed on the Safe Schools Coalition website.

FamilyVoice Queensland branch chairman Doug Sands said the lack of transparency is a worry. "When parents are considering which school to send their children, this information is important," he said. "It should be readily available.

"'Safe Schools' is potentially harmful, even with the changes. It could lead children with transgender feelings, who would otherwise grow out of them, down the path of lifelong drugs and irreversible surgery. And the program does nothing to help the majority of bullied children."

State education minister Kate Jones has agreed to the new federal restrictions on "Safe Schools". By contrast, the Queensland LNP opposition has promised to cancel the program, replacing it with genuine strategies to prevent all forms of bullying.

"We welcome the LNP policy – it is in everyone's best interests," Doug Sands said.

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

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

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Dr David and Mrs Roslyn Phillips

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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.

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

What went wrong?

LGBT activists insist, like little kids: "Everyone else is doing it, so why shouldn't we?" But we need to understand the origins and consequences of making marriage available to everyone in whatever sexual union.

Eventually even incestuous unions of close relatives would be permitted under the "equality" and "love is love" slogan.

If same-sex "marriage" is legalised, parents who don't want their very young children taught about homosexuality and transgenderism are likely to face harsh penalties.

Interestingly, Russia allows homosexuals freedom to exercise their chosen lifestyles in clubs etc, but does not allow them to propagandise children.

In 2013 Russia enacted a law (338-1) prohibiting any positive mention of homosexuality in the presence of minors, including online. Lithuania has a similar law and Ukraine is considering it – unlike permissive laws in the rest of Europe.

Jackie Butler
Wynnum, Qld

Risky experiment

Heather Barwick was raised by two lesbians. In an article in the *Courier-Mail* (20/3/15) she said: "Growing up, and even into my 20s, I supported and advocated for gay marriage. It's only with some time and distance from my childhood that I'm able to reflect on my experiences and recognise the long-term consequences that same-sex parenting had on me.

"It's only now, as I watch my children loving and being loved by their father each day, that I can see the beauty and wisdom in traditional marriage and parenting."

Changing the meaning of marriage is a very risky social and political experiment.

Spencer Gear
North Lakes, Qld

The rise of transgenderism

I have been deeply disturbed by the recent rise of "transgenderism". In particular, by President Obama's order that US schools, under penalty of losing their federal funding, must 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.

What especially gripped me was the sudden appearance of such depravity and the extent that is has been pushed by so many. *The Charlotte Observer*, for example, said that school girls must get "comfortable with male genitalia" 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)

