



Media Release
Hon Sarah Game MLC
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Questioning the erosion of parental rights

Parents who have a child questioning their gender identity are being encouraged onto an **affirmation only pathway by Education Department procedure.**

One Nation Member Hon. Sarah Game MLC is questioning the Department's document: *Gender diverse and intersex children and young people support procedure*. This document gives advice to education leaders such as principals on "Parents who do not currently support their child's gender affirmation".

The document (on pages 7 and 8) describes the education leader's right and responsibility to over-rule parental guidance on this issue and lead the child down an affirmation support pathway.

It also describes how to determine if a child has the "capacity to make an informed decision to affirm their gender" and lists three basic steps, none of which call into question that child's mental health, social or cultural influences.

The erosion of parental rights has gone too far, it is breaking families and putting children at risk.

The best person to help make life altering decisions with a minor is their loving parent or guardian. To feel wedged onto an *affirmation only* pathway in youth is raising alarm bells internationally. South Australians need to know that emerging international best practice is not informing current procedure. Ms Game is demanding the Malinauskas Government show the research this procedural document is based upon.

Ms Game asked questions in the Upper House today about what kind of expertise education leaders have that makes them better qualified for this than parents? She also wants the Government to be transparent; are they keeping pace with emerging issues and evidence of youth transition internationally?

At the crux, does the Malinauskas Government have families at heart of their procedure documents? Or are they simply following federal agendas?

Her questions were referred on the Minister of Education, Training and Skills in the Lower House.



Quotes from Ms Game:

"I want to know what evidence the Department has that these "education site leaders" are better placed to guide a child than their own parent or guardian."

"I've spoken with parents who love their child but want to wait until that child has better capacity to make such an important decision. Parents want to make sure all mental health checks and balances are in place, not rush down an affirmation pathway straight away."

"One Nation believes parental rights are more important than any populist or woke agenda."

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