

31/01/15

**Re: Safe Schools Coalition**

Dear Principal/School Association Member,

We are writing to you as a group of Tasmanian parents and leaders who have serious concerns about a (purported) anti-bullying program that secured federal funding from the previous government in 2013.

**We are deeply concerned about the divisive content and detrimental impact that this particular program could have on school communities.**

Correspondence with Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Education and Training, confirms the anti-bullying programme, put together by Safe Schools Coalition Australia (SSCA), will be available to Tasmanian High schools in 2015.

**While we deplore all forms of bullying and welcome the intent of anti-bullying programs,** the content of the SSCA program focuses only on the bullying of same-sex attracted, “intersex” and “gender diverse” students – not addressing the range of other more common forms of bullying. This is contrary to the approach recommended by Australia’s peak anti-bullying body - the National Centre Against Bullying. NCAB suggest that bullying in schools is best dealt with using, *“a universal, whole-school approach, taking a multi-faceted approach, rather than focusing on one single component.”* <http://ncab.org.au/schools/prevention/>

**We have a number of other serious concerns about the controversial content of this programme (which we believe many parents would share). These are detailed in the attached open letter to the Prime Minister (currently being used by concerned parents to raise awareness about this radical programme).**

If your school is looking for resources in this area, we suggest that you consider some existing alternative anti-bullying programs such as the *Safe Schools Hub* ([www.safeschoolshub.edu.au](http://www.safeschoolshub.edu.au)) or the CASSE programme ([www.casse.org.au](http://www.casse.org.au)). The Safe Schools Hub is an initiative of the federal government which brings school staff, parents and students into partnership and deals with the many issues leading to bullying, including sexual orientation, while the CASSE program addresses the root causes of bullying.

Contacts: Safe Schools Hub: Michelle Rennie 03 9207 9600 [sshub@esa.edu.au](mailto:sshub@esa.edu.au)  
CASSE Programme: Carolyn Aston 0450 540 366 [carolyn.aston@casse.org.au](mailto:carolyn.aston@casse.org.au)

If you have any questions regarding this email please do not hesitate to contact Mark Brown on 0408 850 629 or [tasoffice@acl.org.au](mailto:tasoffice@acl.org.au)

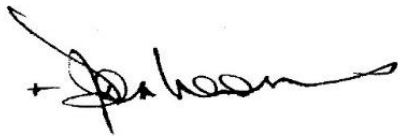
Sincerely,



Rev Campbell Markham  
Moderator Elect, Presbyterian Church of Tasmania



Jim Collins  
Tasmania State Director & National Development Officer, FamilyVoice Australia



The Most Rev Julian C Porteous DD  
Archbishop of Hobart



Mark Brown  
Tasmanian Director, Australian Christian Lobby



The Right Reverend John Harrower  
Anglican Bishop of Tasmania



Pastor Dave Morse  
President, Australian Christian Churches Tasmania