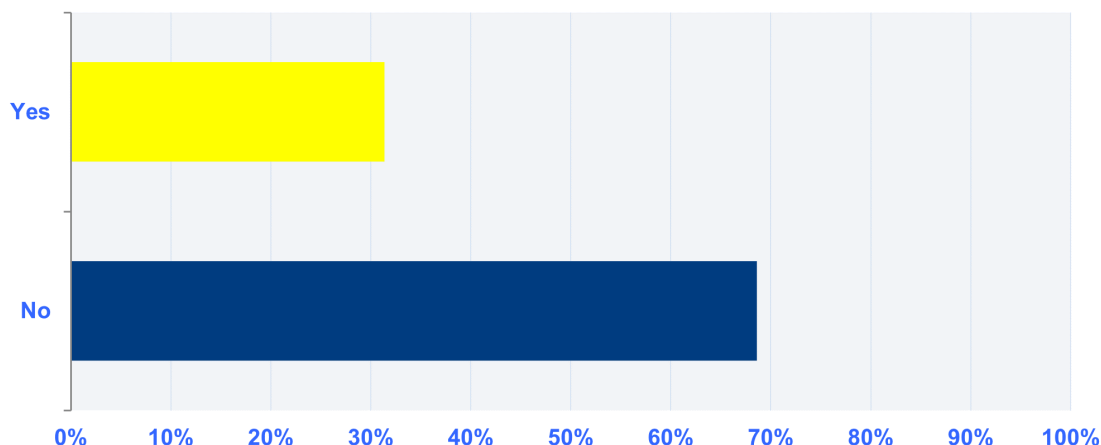




Should Parents Lose The Right To Withdraw Their Children From Sex Education?



972 respondents completed SAASSO's latest 'State of Education' survey.

90% were parents and 37% work in schools.

Sex Education - Parent's Rights

SA's Children's Commissioner has called for parents to lose the right to remove their children from sex education classes. SAASSO asked members if they agreed.

- 31.40% voted YES
- 68.60% voted NO.

Only 28.57% of parents agreed they should lose the right to withdraw their children from sex education classes.

47.31% of school staff voted for parents to lose the right - including only 26.32% of principals and 41.67% of teachers.

58.06% of non-parents agreed with parents losing the rights over their child's education.

Comments clearly supported the concept of sex and relationship education for children - with many saying they would enrol their children - but still believed the decision on sex education for children was a fundamental right of parents; that government should not interfere with.

Sports Uniform

73.18% of respondents agreed with experts calling for students to be allowed to wear sports-type uniforms every day.

73.74% of parents agreed, as did 76.23% of school staff. 87.50% of teachers surveyed supported the move, along with 66.99% of those in school leadership positions.

68.48% of SSOs also supported the move. Most supportive, were staff in the 'other' category, at 88.64%.

Free Childcare

51.20% of respondents agreed that children of unemployed parents should get free childcare.

52.31% of parents supported the idea, compared with 59.25% of school staff.

82.43% of principals want free childcare for unemployed families, as do 72.09% of 'other' school staff.

75.21% of teachers supported the move. Only 41.30% of non-parents are in favour.

Comments showed voting tended to depend on whether you perceived daycare as 'babysitting' or early years education.

Selected Comments



The idea of a sports uniform is to prevent students returning to class in soiled and sweaty clothes. A separate uniform alleviates this issue.

I've never received any training on how to teach relationships to students.

The only exception to Sex ed should be if the child has experienced sexual trauma, and wants to be excluded from class discussions. There are nice middle ground for stiff uniforms and untidy sports wear.

Although I feel Sex Education is an necessity in a child's education, I still feel it is the parent's right to withdraw their child. Childcare fees should be indexed relating to income.

I believe that daycare provides both the social and nutritional foundation that under-privileged may need.

There is sadly often a link between poverty and child abuse/neglect. Providing these children with other adults who can be 'looking out for them' is crucial.

They wouldn't need childcare if they are unemployed.

Free childcare? No. If the family is jobless they have time to take care of their children. Perhaps there could be a lesser childcare charge rate, but they should not be given free childcare. Not fair on the rest of us!!!!

Sex Ed class curriculum needs to be shared and widely available for parents before their ability to remove their students is taken from them.

It isn't fair that parents who work cant get positions in daycare's because they are full with children from parents who don't work.

Sex Education classes are a public health service and children should know how their bodies work.

If parents choose to not work until their kids go to school then they should pay childcare if there are circumstances that prevent them from working then they should get free childcare.

Schools should be able to select a uniform which best suits the needs of their students and families.

I love it when the government tells us how to raise our children. Why don't they stick to what they are good at - collecting taxes and wasting them.

Because schools have done such a great job up until now at teaching kids about sex??

How about the government keeps it nose out of families.

I'm shocked a liberal government wants to tell us how to raise our kids!!

How much more are we going to dump on teachers?

All for sex Ed and my children will undertake it but parents must have the right to raise their own children as they see fit.

Did this commissioner speak to any parents before deciding to strip their rights to raise their own children?

Yes to sex Ed but no to government raising our kids.

I respect the need for sex and relationships education but you can't say parents have no rights in what their children are taught.

Re qu 6 - free for low income families for medical appointments/healthcare.

Not free but yes it should be funded a bit fairer.

I believe that sex education is as important to children as healthy eating. I don't believe in taking parents rights but rather respecting children's rights to understand their own bodies.

Sex education is vital but governments can't take away rights from parents. They are their children.

It's not just babysitting. Early years education is crucial.

And what if one day we have a government teaching sex Ed you don't like? I'll bet this commissioner will want parents to have rights then.

I'm a teacher and what gets taught in sex Ed varies wildly from class to class. I wouldn't let My kids hear some of the rubbish that is sprouted.

Let parents babysit their own children.

I want every child in my school to learn about sexuality, but they aren't my children and it's not my place.

As a principal I'm not sure schools should be teaching about relationships in the first place.

We have to stop calling it childcare. It's early years education and the children of unemployed need it the most.

My child. My decision. What's wrong with letting boys and girls dress like boys and girls.

Schools should stick to teaching subjects and leave values to parents.

Who is this commissioner to tell us how to raise our children.

The last thing we need in schools is another boffin telling us what we should do.

What facts is this commissioner basing this ridiculous notion on?

And who is going to decide what my child is taught about sex? Bureaucrats?

She's my child. Mind your own business.

Uniforms are a good idea. Some childcare for kids of unemployed parents but not every day of the week. As for parents having no rights when it comes to sex Ed - disgusting.

Government should stick to its job of spending our taxes not telling us all how to be better parents.

My school is flexible on uniform. I'm all for sex Ed but parents must have rights. They know their children and they know when their child is ready.

My child my choice.

Another expert with no respect for family.

I'm a principal and forcing children into sex education classes against their parents wishes will only create more tension between schools and parents.