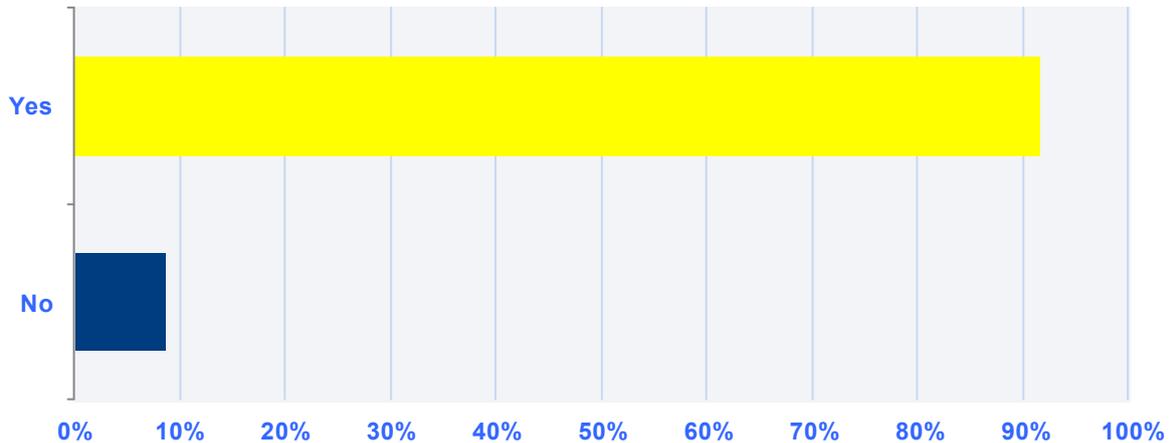




### Should Homosexuality & Transgender Topics Be Included In Sex Education Programs?



There has been much debate over the Safe Schools sex education program.

Supporters say including homosexual and transgender information reflects modern Australian values and will combat bullying.

Critics claim it is political advocacy, foisting a minority agenda on all students.

Experts have also warned that it is unfair on principals to assess the suitability of programs, taught in their schools, by external organisations.

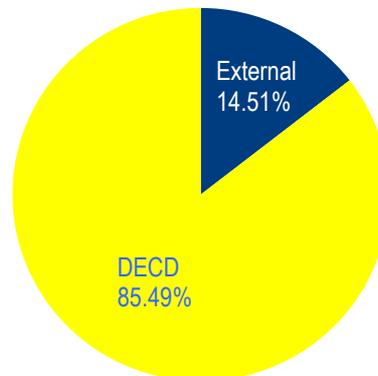
SAASSO recently surveyed member attitudes toward the controversial subject.

Parents and school staff were overwhelming in their support of including homosexual and transgender information in school sex programs:

- 91.44% of respondents want gender diverse subjects included.

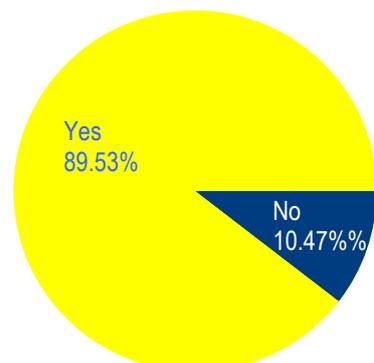
However, 89.53% also believe parents have the right to opt their children out of such programs.

Despite the support for greater inclusivity, an overwhelming proportion of respondents want sex education programs delivered by the education department, and not outside organisations.



Should sex education programs be developed & delivered by DECD or external organisations?

A higher proportion of school staff indicated that external organisations should deliver sex education programs.



Should parents have the right to opt their children out of sex education programs?

## Selected Comments



*happy for external orgs to deliver, but not any that have religious affiliations*

*It doesn't matter who delivers it, as long as the information is correct. External organisations delivering means a more consistent curriculum is delivered across the State.*

*All topics should be covered so that kids are not a stranger to someone's differing sexuality which may help reduce bullying of a child that is 'different.'*

*Students are more open to frank discussions about sexuality and sexual development when it comes from an "expert". I find the questions are more focussed and honest.*

*Both DECD and external organisations should help deliver education. Homosexual and trans issues need to be covered but in small proportion to more broad needs.*

*Just as overtly heterosexual displays of affection etc. have no place in schools, so should there be no place for LGBTI displays in school. Result = no bullying! Keep all personalised sexuality out of schools and teach biology and relationships generally - how to treat other PEOPLE!*

*External organisations will be better prepared to answer questions etc compared to a teacher that has to teach the subject due to a timetable fir over actual expertise.*

*It is not easy to answer the above questions simply yes and no as there are too many factors to take into consideration. These are important issues that need to be dealt with delicately with consideration of age appropriate content and ensuring those that teach these items are qualified as sexual education teachers and not just teachers being told to educate about sex*

*I believe it is a parents place to teach their children about such matters as a parent knows when their child is ready to learn of such things and when they are not. Teachers, schools, and education departments treat children as a group, not as individuals and therefore teach groups of children the same thing, whether they are ready to hear it or not. A school should be teaching the education a child needs to find a job when they are older. Life skills including sex education is a parents responsibility.*

*Homosexual and transgender should be kept end out of schools because it is not necessary. It should be up to the parents to tell them about it. By teaching it in schools is not going to reduce bullying. Schools should be spending more time teaching making sure the kids are getting taught the reading and writing etc. better. Very important and also implement gender neutral toilets are necessary.*

*Transgender and same sex relationships should be part of health education in high school.*

*Only believe this should be taught from year seven upwards.*

*I currently teach the SHINE SA program at school and the students absolutley love it. They prefer that it comes from me and not their parents as it is less awkward. I think it is vital that all students learn about homosexuality and transgender. The better informed and educated the students are the more likely they are to form their own opinions instead of following the thoughts and ideas of their parents.*

*We can not isolate children from the world we can though give them factual information to help them understand that world and live in it. Rumours and false information are far more damaging to children including those who may feel they are homosexual or transgender.*

*If the above is taught at school as part of the health program students will be informed at an early age which will hopefully prevent harassment. However it doesn't need to be isolated from the general sex education or made to be the most important topic.*

*Only if it's a reputable organisation*

*Teachers need to be trained to teach as a specialised subject*

*Homosexuality is not the norm, transgender is not the norm and teaching about it shouldn't be the norm. If individuals wish for their sexual preference to be known and other students informed about it, let the subject arise if necessary as is done when a student is disabled in someway. I'm not saying Homosexuality is a disability but nor is it something that should be "taught". We Don't teach heterosexuality , so why teach Homosexuality? And i suspect that teaching about it will not stop bullying on the contrary these are notions that come from the home, just as racism, genderism, religionism biases come from home and community, it will take generations before schools and teaching will alter points of view.*

*The use of external organisations who have expertise enriches programs in schools. The education department should have the oversight of what is developed and delivered to that it is consistent with public sector values.*

*I don't agree with this policy at all its taking the rights of the parents and giving it to a mob that think they know better than the parent. I would never let my children go through role playing exercises in different scenarios it's a sickening thought.*

*SHineSA program is terrific; their staff are very supportive.*

*A simple overveiw is probably okay but not the blatant social engineering that was included in the safe schools program, sex education and the values surrounding it should be taught by the young person's parents. It's not the schools responsibly nor should an outside organization have the right to push agendas within the school system.*

*They should be developed in partnership with the education department with external organisations taking the lead. Any program should be evidence based i.e. what does the literature say is most effective etc*

*It is my firm view that the problem of bullying should be addressed directly, without reference to sexuality. Including sexuality is likely to place many parents in a difficult position and lead to the political conflict we have already witnessed. I have no objection whatsoever to my children being taught about sexual diversity, however I also respect parents right to choose not to have such matters explored in detail, particularly amongst primary school aged children.*

*External organisations with specialisation in this area, particularly towards children*

*External organisations will be better prepared to answer questions etc compared to a teacher that has to teach the subject due to a timetable fir over actual expertise.*