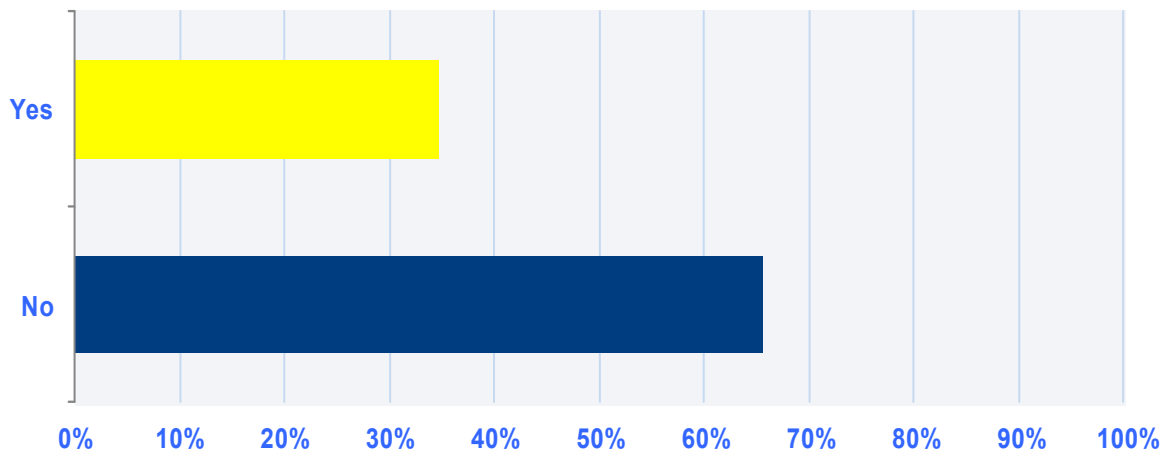




### Will Forcing Bullies To Move Schools Help Stop Bullying?



The Weatherill Government has proposed forcing serial bullies to move schools, as an anti-bullying measure.

They also want the education department to have the power to tell parents which school their children can attend, if they provide false information in order to enrol their child in a more desirable school.

Recently, SAASSO asked parents and school staff what they think of these forced enrolment plans....

Asked if forcing bullies to move schools will help stop bullying:

- 34.53% said YES
- 65.47% said NO.

92.11% of votes received were from parents.

34.21% of votes were from school staff.

Overall, around a quarter school staff favour moving bullies, compared with about 38% of non-school staff.

Parents and non-parents were equally unsupportive of the idea.

School staff voting yes to forcing bullies to move schools included:

- 38.20% of principals
- 22.64% of teachers
- 12.43% of SSOs
- 18.67% of 'other' school staff.

Comments from parents and educators clearly show the focus needs to be on dealing with the causes of bullying, not simply making serial bullies someone else's problem.

School staff also expressed opposition to schools which are dealing well with bullying, being forced to take on bullies from nearby schools.

When asked if DECD should be able to force parents to enrol their children in a particular school, if they provide false enrolment information:

- 69.23% voted YES
- 30.77% voted NO.

There was no significant difference between school staff and non-school staff.

Parents were slightly more supportive of the idea than non-parents.

## Selected Comments



Simply moving schools doesn't teach them to behave better next time.

As long as the child is not falsely accused of bullying. There needs to be proof.

This survey is about bullying students. What about staff who regularly bully other staff? Does the same apply to them?

So a new completely innocent group of children get to be bullied?

Bullies need to be prosecuted however making them move schools would only shift the problem not fix it. There needs to be serious consequences for them if convicted. I don't believe that shifting schools is a serious consequence for a true bully.

I feel that forcing a bully to move schools is just putting the problem onto another school. Bullies need to be dealt with by the proper authorities.

In a long list of stupid weatherill ideas, this is definitely the latest.

My son has been continually 'bullied' for being small. He doesn't know who the people are a lot of the time - they maybe older kids not in his year level. This bullying has severely affected his self esteem.

The department is not focusing on the root of the problem, which is working with parents and finding the reasons why the so called bully is acting that way and why the so called victims are not managing.

Why is weatherill trying to fix the surface symptoms not the root of the cause of the problem?

We have worked very hard to stamp out bullying in our school and now I'm going to be saddled with bullies from schools where they have failed?

If public schools were adequately funded and the private school system abolished, education would be on the road to equality of opportunity for all. Close the gap!

What happens to bullies that attend remote area schools - where there is not another school for them to be transferred to? How is changing schools going to stop the bullying behaviour?

Forcing 'serial' bullies to move school is just moving the problem further along, it's not resolving any issues. This is quite detrimental to all involved.

Ridiculous.

Jay rearranging the deckchairs.

What about country schools where there is NO choice?? Those "more desirable schools" will quickly become the most undesirable schools! Teachers can't be every child's parent!! Parents need to be more accountable.

Fix the problem. Don't just move it on.

Irresponsible.

Another plan by Weatherill that will never happen.

Home schooling or tutoring away from a school environment may help.

What is the point of moving schools as you are only moving the problem to another school. They will only be school hopping and possibly have major side effects for the bully.

Fix the "undesirable" schools

What a stupid idea!

This will just make the bullies even more aggressive.

Bullies need intervention in order to change their behaviour. Full intellectual and psychological assessments need to be undertaken on them to see why they are behaving in this manner. After which they need to undertake a compulsory program which needs regular review.

Just moving to a new school will give them another place to be a bully.

Isolating bullies will only make them worse.

I don't see how moving a bully to another school will stop the bullying. Surely it just allows the bully to target a new set of children.

Bullying must be controlled in every school. There should be consequences for the bully not move them on to another school. If false information is provided at enrolment then DECD should be able to tell the parents they are not able to enrol their child at that particular school. But DECD also have a responsibility to provide adequate spaces at all its schools for students which fall within its zone and not tell them to go look somewhere else.

This has to be a joke!

How bloody ridiculous!!!!!! Transferring bullies to another school is transferring the problem to another school, NOT treating the bully. It's the same mentality that saw paedophiles from one parish to another. The result.....another feast of victims for the perpetrator.

There needs to be more serious repercussions for bullies. The parents of these bullies need to face facts that their child is a bully and not always blame the system.

DECD is quickly becoming a Dictatorship. They have become the bullies. This is disgusting behaviour. They are telling everyone that DECD is above the law.

Because this strategy worked so well for the church...

Moving bullies won't stop them being bullies. If anything it will exacerbate the issues that make them bullies in the first place.

Another example of the government choosing the cheapest option to try and make it look like they are doing something.

Home schooling or a special school for children with serious behavioural issues.

How about some genuine investment in treating the causes of bullying?