

Parents want their say

TIM WILLIAMS

ONE in three parents back Pauline Hanson's controversial push for laws aimed at protecting children from indoctrination in schools, a South Australian survey has found.

But the results show some who support the move don't agree with the One Nation senator's views that gender fluidity is "unproven" and man-made climate change "debatable".



Senator Hanson, pictured, caused a stir in February last year when she introduced her Bill. It seeks to tie federal funding to mandatory "balanced" teaching opposing views, saying children were at the mercy of "far-left loons" in classrooms.

Taking issue with everything from "skewed" history lessons to unisex toilets and

children's book *The Gender Fairy*, she said her Bill would give parents "legal rights to challenge inaccurate and biased teachings in the courts and to have their views taken into account at school".

More than 800 people – mostly parents, but about 40 per cent who work in schools – responded to the SA Association of State School Organisations survey, aimed at informing a submission to a Senate committee inquiry due to report in July.

School staff were slightly more likely to be supportive (34 per cent) than the overall figure of 32 per cent.

SAASSO director David Knuckey said participants' comments showed there was more concern about teaching gender than climate change.

But in some cases it was clear people voted for "more parent engagement and greater accountability", without having any issue with current teaching of those topics. "In recent memory, SAASSO

hasn't received any complaints from parents concerned about their children being indoctrinated (on any topic)," Mr Knuckey said.

Comments included: "I agree parents need more rights in their children's education. Still, this sounds homophobic."

Another parent said: "I'm against gay bashing, and climate change is science, but anything to make schools accountable."

Many comments derided the Bill, such as, "What next,

intelligent design?" and "When did we become America?"

Others said children needed protecting from the "gender-pushing minority".

Some respondents called for calm, saying current regulations already safeguarded against indoctrination.

Legal experts last year said the Bill faced insurmountable constitutional hurdles – let alone political ones – making it largely a publicity stunt.

Ms Hanson's office was contacted for comment.

How a dog improved the flu vaccine

SUE DUNLEVY

AUSTRALIA'S battle against the flu has literally gone to the dogs with a new, more effective flu vaccine available that is built from canine kidney cells.

It comes as experts predict a moderately bad flu season is on the way as people relax their social distancing and there are lower levels of immunity because so few people were infected last year due to COVID restrictions.

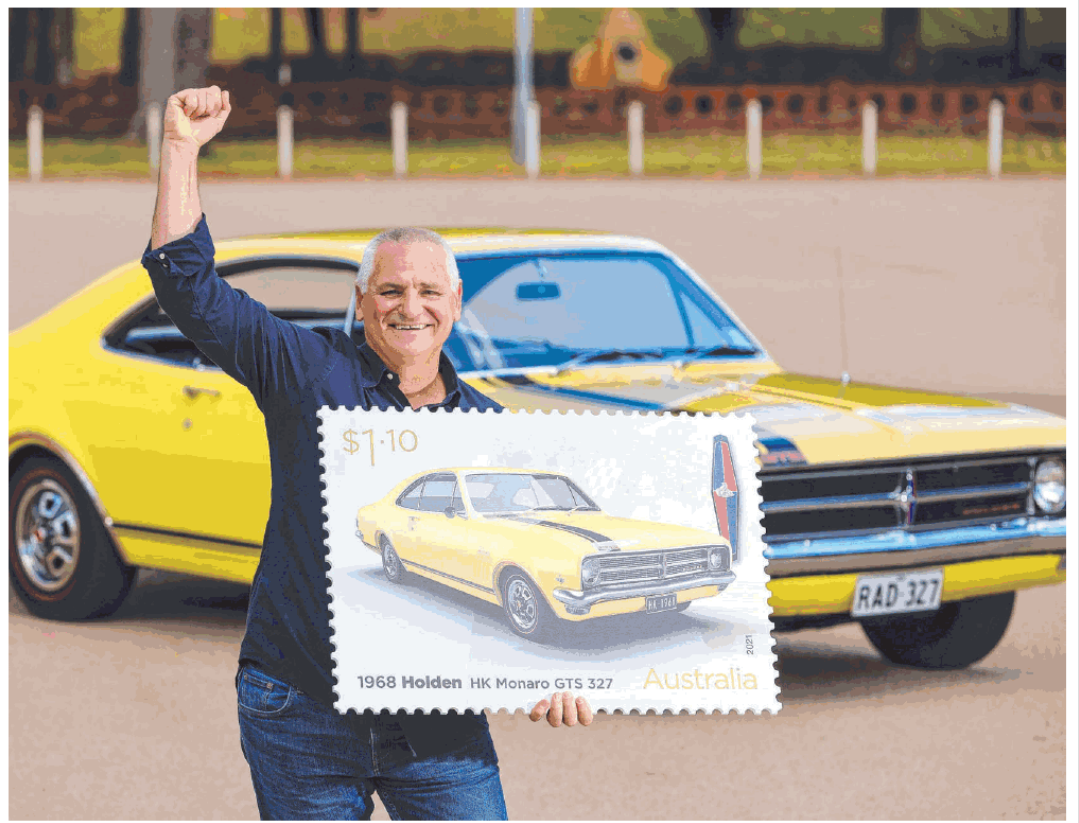
For decades, Australians have been using flu vaccines that were grown in eggs – a process that can see the virus adapt and change from the type that is circulating in the community, making the vaccine less effective.

Australia's flu vaccine producer CSL has revealed it uses 425,000 eggs per day to produce vaccines when it is running at maximum capacity, but the process is time consuming.

Vaccines grown in mammalian cells are faster to produce and are a closer match to the virus circulating in the community and so they work better.

For the first time this year a vaccine grown in a cell line derived from the kidney of a cocker spaniel, in 1958, will be available from pharmacies but it will cost \$40 – double the price of the normal shot.

University Sydney vaccine expert Professor Robert Booy said the new jab "is somewhere between five and 2 per cent more effective".



Proud Monaro owner Dino Pietrobon with one of his collection of classic cars and the stamp which immortalises that model. Picture: Russell Millard

A NEW POST FOR ICONIC AUSSIE HOLDENS

MITCH MOTT

STEP aside Queen Elizabeth II and quaint native flora and fauna, some other icons are about to adorn our stamps.

Australia Post will today release a set of stamps commemorating Holden

models including the 1948 Holden 48-215 sedan, the 1963 Holden EH Premier, the 1968 Holden HK Monaro GTS 327, the 1971 Holden HQ Kingswood Ute and the 2006 Holden VE Commodore SS V.

Monaro owner Dino Pietrobon said the car was

symbolic of a particular time in Australian history as well as his own life.

"It's my childhood really," he said.

"Every time I get behind the wheel it's like reliving my teens or early 20s.

"They are very simple cars, nothing beeps at you

when you get in it. Basically you just put the windows down and drive."

Over the course of 60 years, Holden produced 7.6 million cars, with 1.6 million of those still on the nation's roads.

The \$1.10 stamps will be on sale from today.

NAZI HAT SPEECH

FOOTY fans leaving Friday night's blockbuster at the MCG have been left shocked after a man sporting a Nazi swastika on his hat was spotted at a busy Melbourne train station.

The "terrifying" sighting has prompted a leading civil rights organisation to renew calls to ban the distressing symbol.

A 23-year-old Jewish man took a photograph of the hat at Richmond train station about 10.30pm last Friday when most people boarding the train were heading home from the clash between Collingwood and the Western Bulldogs.



Campaign against laws to ban protests

HELEN KEMPTON

SIX Tasmanian organisations have banded together to jointly condemn the Tasmanian Government's controversial anti-protest laws and ask members of the state's Upper House to vote them down.

The government's legislation will be debated in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Labor says it will not support the laws but wants to work with the government to draw up an alternative Bill.

"We will not support laws that make it a crime to protest on any footpath or road in Tasmania. Nor do we want to give the Bob Brown Foundation a fundraising gravy train to take to the High Court," Labor MP Shane Bond said.

The High Court has already rejected the government's original legislation.

It has now been amended but Dr Bond said it was still about "fighting" protesters not "fixing" timber and mining industry concerns.

Labor wants to see "timber harvest safety zones" and an aggravated trespass charge to be levelled at protesters that

The six organisations – Civil Liberties Australia, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Amnesty International Australia, Unions Tasmania, Human Rights Law Centre and the Tasmanian Council for Social Service – wrote to Legislative Council members asking they vote against the proposed laws because they are "undemocratic, illiberal,

and not in the public interest".