

A Bill for an Act relating to Reform to Sexual Education in Victorian High Schools Bill 2020
To be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

Reform to Sexual Education in Victorian High Schools Bill 2020

A Bill for an Act to establish a reformed Sexual Education Program in all Victorian High Schools. This Program will aim to better inform students on sexual education in a safe and supportive school environment, with a focus on human development, relationships, behaviour, society and culture.

This Bill was created to protect Victorian youth and provide space for meaningful discussions in relation to sexual education.

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this act are—

- (a) to establish an external body that provides teachers and counselors with an accreditation that allows them to teach a mandated sexual education program;
- (b) to provide mandatory, meaningful, and identical sexual education programs in all Victorian secondary schools;
- (c) to provide methods to enforce the execution of the program.

Clause 2 Commencemene

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill, we define the following to mean—

- (a) **Safe Schools Certification** means a certification that approves an educational facility to be classified as a 'Safe School';
- (b) **external body** means the person and/or organisation that delivers the program and a person that is not a member of any school faculty;
- (c) **accreditation** means the process or action of officially recognizing someone or an organisation/ group to be qualified to run a particular activity.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment of an external body

- 4.1 An external body shall be created to assist in the hiring, distribution and managing of the counsellors needed to carry out the Reform to Sexual Education in schools, as well as adhering to the guidelines and structures outlined in this bill.
- 4.2 Mandatory training shall be required for all individuals who wish to attain accreditation for carrying out the Reform to Sexual Education in secondary schools. Any training shall be at the discretion of the external body.
- 4.3 Victorian secondary schools that participate in the program shall receive a Safe Schools Certification.

Clause 5 Curriculum

- 5.1 The Sexual Education course shall be included as part of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum within all Victorian secondary schools.
- 5.2 This course will commence over the duration of the first term, with time allocated as per school choice to attend to the subject matter. Topics to be covered shall be—
 - (a) Human Development;
 - (b) Relationships, Communication and Personal Behaviour;
 - (c) Society and Culture;
 - (d) Sexual Health and Behaviour.

Clause 6 Student wellbeing

- 6.1 All student wellbeing practitioners employed by a Victorian secondary school must undertake mandatory training and attain accreditation as advised by the external body.
- 6.2 Student wellbeing practitioners must attain accreditation prior to the commencement of the school year.
- 6.3 It is mandatory that counsellors regain the accreditation every 3 years. This shall be managed by the human resources department of the school.

Clause 7 Parental choice and responsibility

- 7.1 If, for any reason the parent of a child does not want them to receive the sexual education program, they have the ability to withdraw their child from the program with a signed letter delivered to the school.
- 7.2 The decision behind a withdrawal shall not be questioned by the school or the external body.

Clause 8 Responsibility of the school body

- 8.1 Every school shall be required to enroll into a statewide database for teaching the sexual education program
- 8.2 Schools must be enrolled in the program prior to the beginning of the school year, to commence teaching in Term 1.
- 8.3 Schools enrolled in teaching the program must have 'Safe Schools' signage displayed around the school at each entrance.