

### FROM GENDER CONFUSION!

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## NSW could be the next domino to fall as radical gender ideology is embedded in legislation around the country.

Victoria's recent *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act* is one of the most radical and overreaching laws **in the world.**¹ It gives a free pass to so-called "gender affirming" therapies, but criminalises alternative treatments that offer holistic care during puberty.

Alex Greenwich has introduced his Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill, which largely mirrors the Victorian legislation.<sup>2</sup> The Minns government is also considering similar legislation in NSW, and a Consultation Paper has been circulated.<sup>3</sup>

## Conversion therapy laws such as the one in Victoria pose a major threat to children and families. Here's why:

- **They tear families apart** Under such laws parents, teachers, and counsellors can be criminally prosecuted for acting in a child's best interest when addressing gender confusion.
- They enforce dangerously radical gender ideology These laws enshrine a broad and vague definition of "gender identity" and entrench "gender affirming" treatments while potentially criminalising those proposing a different approach.<sup>4</sup>
- **They undermine religious freedom** Religious practices, like prayer and pastoral counselling, could be explicitly banned if they clash with progressive gender ideologies.<sup>5</sup>
- They jeopardise religious communities Churches, mosques and synagogues could lose their ability to ensure that their members, employees, volunteers and leaders conform to their beliefs. If the Catholic church can't ensure its priests live according to Catholic doctrine, it can't protect its religious character.<sup>6</sup>
- They violate fundamental human rights Victorian legislation grants excessive powers to government bureaucracy to investigate, re-educate, punish and suppress people for exercising their fundamental human rights.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Example Scenario**<sup>8</sup>

Sam attended a private Christian school that adhered to orthodox Christian teachings on human identity. Sam began to identify as "gay" and "non-binary".

Upon discovering Sam's struggles with gender confusion, Sam's parents encouraged Sam to live according to what the Christian Bible teaches about human identity and marriage. Sam says, "My Dad told me if I didn't follow a cishet (cisgender and heterosexual) 'normal' lifestyle, I would be separated from them for eternity."

According to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC):

Sam's dad may have engaged in a change or suppression practice by telling Sam that if they didn't live the cishet lifestyle they'd be separated for eternity – if this was said to try to change or suppress Sam's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sam's parents could be criminally charged under the Victorian laws for explaining what the Bible teaches about human identity and relationships and encouraging behaviour according to biblical teachings.

#### TAKE ACTION TODAY!

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- $\label{localization} \begin{tabular}{l} $$ $$ $$ \ \ $$ $$ Onversion \ Practices \ Prohibition \ Act \ 2021 \ (VIC); \ Murray \ Campbell, "Victoria \ Bans \ Conversion \ Practices \ Despite \ Significant \ Flaws in the \ Bill" \ (4 \ February \ 2021), \ \ \ $$ $$ $$ https://murray \ Campbell.net/2021/02/04/victoria-bans-conversion-practices-despite-significant-flaws/>.$
- <sup>2</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, "Greenwich to introduce long-overdue equality bill as NSW trails country" (22 August 2023).
- <sup>3</sup> The Guardian, "NSW Labor leader Chris Minns promises to ban gay conversion therapy, putting pressure on Perrottet" (11 February 2023); Sydney Morning Herald, "Gay conversion law would ban suppression of gender identity" (11 August 2023).
- <sup>4</sup> Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (VIC), s4; Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (VIC), s4.
- <sup>5</sup> Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (VIC), s5(3)(b).
- <sup>6</sup> VEOHRC, "Olly's Story", <a href="https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/change-or-suppression-stories/ollys-story/">https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/change-or-suppression-stories/ollys-story/</a>.
- <sup>7</sup> Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (VIC), Part 3.
- <sup>8</sup> Provided from the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) Website (https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/change-or-suppression-stories/sams-story/).