



# YMCA SA Junior Parliament Bills - 2019

## **Early Education Bill**

***A bill to improve access to, and quality of, Early Childhood Education centres.***

***PASSED: 29 - 7***

### Bill Brief

Children are the bedrock of our society and their educational outcomes must be the priority for any society. Studies have shown that 90% of the human brain is developed in the first five years of life resulting in early childhood education being pinnacle for a child's development. Those important years are provided by early educators and their work will impact children's education and quality for later in life. However, it is clear that we do not value our early childhood educators enough as they can be paid as low as \$22 per hour and as such this legislation aims to increase the wages of early childhood educators. In addition to this, having easily accessible and affordable child care is now an essential everyday item for the modern day family unit however, the costs have only risen in recent years. That is why this Bill will establish state-owned Early Learning Centres (ELC) at every public school across the state of South Australia with no out-of-pocket costs for families. To ensure these ELCs are sustainable and can provide the best possible educational outcomes they will be powered by at least 50% renewable energy and have facilities such as an urban farm and nature playgrounds. To ensure the best educational outcomes for children ELC attendance will be compulsory.

## **Major Crimes Sentencing and Amendment Bill**

***A bill to increase penalties and remove exemptions for major indictable offenses under the current South Australian legislation.***

***PASSED: 21 - 16***

### Bill Brief

Currently, in South Australia a sentence of imprisonment for life is misleading. Judges state that it is a life sentence but in reality, only enforce a sentence that has a non-parole average of 25 years. This leads to criminals being released on good behaviour before they are no longer a threat to society and before they have had ample time to be punished for their heinous acts.

For major offences, often when people are awaiting trial they are able to remain within regular society if they are able to pay bail. Through this act, an immediate remand will be introduced upon sufficient evidence being found, and the person shall be detained in prison until the date of the trial takes place. As well as this, trials will be sped up to ensure criminals are not held in remand for too long and bail will not be an option.

The public are at a high risk of these criminals reoffending when released back into the community, being exempt from their so-called 'life' sentence. If stricter penalties are introduced to ensure the safety of our communities and the rehabilitation of offenders, we will ultimately have a more cohesive and safe society.



### **Equal Opportunities in Sport Bill**

***A bill to create equal opportunities for women and all genders in sports.***

***PASSED: 23 - 13***

#### **Bill Brief**

This Bill is to create equal opportunity in all sports for all genders by implementing a new program in schools for students to find and elaborate on their sporting interests. This is to eliminate the stereotypes of male and female sports, as well as encourage others to pursue sporting careers and boost the overall fitness of later generations. This will be achieved by the program being implemented for year five to eight students in schools. The program will make all genders play sports with each other while supporting the personal interests of students. The Bill also aims to decrease the inequality of professional sports pay rates among different genders. The Bill will achieve this by implementing a new pay system for professional athletes of all genders.

### **Freedom of Gender Expression Bill**

***A bill to improve security and freedom of gender expression for people within schools.***

***PASSED: 27 - 7***

#### **Bill Brief**

The option to freely express gender identity is an issue that many students face in both public and private schools. Many schools fail to adequately address gender expression, specifically in regards to unisex areas and items. The implementation of unisex bathrooms in schools will bridge the divide male and female bathrooms cause. It creates a safer and more equal environment for students who are LGBTQI+; specifically non-binary, gender fluid or transgender. Hence, the same outcome regarding unisex uniforms; students who wish to wear a skirt or pants, no matter the gender, are able to express that freely and feel comfortable in a judgement free environment. Confidentiality in the freedom of gender expression is also another issue students may be faced with; many students do not feel comfortable to be addressed using a certain pronoun and are afraid to express themselves from fear of community or family judgement. Students are able to confide in their teachers regarding their gender pronouns and sexual preferences, knowing that the teacher will not later inform their parents of what was told. This creates a more trusting environment where the student then feels confident to be themselves, when they may not feel this confidence outside of the school environment.



## **Disability Support, Awareness and Education Bill**

***A bill to educate and provide services to people with mental and physical disabilities***

***PASSED: 26 - 11***

### **Bill Brief**

Discrimination and stigma surrounding people with a disability or mental illness is an ongoing issue in the state of South Australia. The particular issues of disability accessibility and inclusion, as well as poor education surrounding mental illness in communities and schools.

By targeting these issues at the source; access and inclusion, this Bill will create an environment free from the physical barriers to living a full and fulfilling life. This Bill aims to promote the social inclusion and acceptance of people living with mental illness and disabilities.

The provision of grants for infrastructure and equipment that promotes accessibility will ensure those living with disabilities are able to access the same employment and educational opportunities afforded to others. Grants shall also be provided to organisations wishing to run community events to support the social inclusion of people with disabilities as well as the distribution of information pamphlets about these events.

Amendments shall be made to the South Australian health curriculum to include content surrounding mental health and disabilities. Teachers shall also be required to undertake regular training to ensure they understand how to appropriately and effectively support those with mental illness and disabilities.

## **Carbon to Clean Energy Bill**

***A bill to reduce carbon emissions produced by businesses in South Australia.***

***PASSED: 20 - 16***

### **Bill Brief**

Traditional energy sources emit significant amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which is contributing to climate change. Climate change is an ever-growing issue and action needs to be taken now. According to the Climate Council 'Australia's potential for renewable energy generation is 500 times greater than current power generation capacity'<sup>1</sup>. By transitioning South Australia's energy sources to renewable energy sources we will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and utilise renewable energy resources such as wind and solar power. Australia is one of the windiest and sunniest countries in the world and this can be used to our advantage<sup>2</sup>.

This bill will provide subsidies as well as administer penalties, assisting current South Australian businesses in their transition to renewable energy. The Climate Council has also stated that 'most scenarios for stabilising greenhouse gas emissions rely on the world transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy'<sup>3</sup>