

Sponsor: Pasefika Navigators

Refuter: Daylesford College

Cultural Education in Schools and Communities Bill

2023

A Bill for an Act to establish education within schools and communities in Victoria that covers Polynesian and First Nations Australian culture including language, customs and practices. This Bill aims to promote a safe space for Polynesian and First Nations youth to learn about their heritage and discuss their culture, as well as educating non-Polynesian or First Nations people on different cultures to promote inclusion and respect, and acknowledge that these cultures are just as valuable as western colonial culture.

Youth possessing a strong cultural identity has been shown to improve mental health and positive engagement in their communities by reducing crime rates and lessen stress caused by racial discrimination. This Bill will strengthen Polynesian and First Nations youth to be the best that they can be. It also will expand the understanding of non-Polynesian and First Nations communities on these cultures to ensure our communities are inclusive and accepting of different backgrounds.

A Bill for an Act relating to Cultural Education in Schools and Communities.

To be enacted by the Y's Victorian Youth Parliament.

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are;

- (a) Create a safe environment for Polynesian and First Nations communities to learn and share their culture;
- (b) Promote inclusion and appreciation of different culture;
- (c) Promote positive community engagement from First Nations and Polynesian youth by creating culture-based support resources.

Clause 2 Commencement

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

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill;

- (a) **CAEB** means Cultural Awareness Education Board;
- (b) **Koori** means Indigenous Australian from Victoria or southern New South Wales;
- (c) **Elder** means an Indigenous member of the community who has gained recognition as a custodian of knowledge and lore, and who has permission to disclose knowledge and beliefs;
- (d) **VCAA** means Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority;
- (e) **History teachers** means certified Victorian teachers that specialise in teaching past events in history;
- (f) **Bush healing** means ancient and traditional Aboriginal use of native Australian botanicals for the purpose of physical & spiritual healing;
- (g) **CCH** means Community Cultural Hub
- (h) **Racial trauma** means the cumulative effects of racism on an individual's mental and physical health.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment of the Cultural Awareness Education Board

- 4.1 The Cultural Awareness Education Board (CAEB) shall be created to oversee;
- (a) The implementation of cultural awareness education in Victorian high schools.
- 4.2 This board shall be comprised of 6 members. These members shall be;
- (a) Two members with a background of secondary education;
 - (b) Three young people;
 - (c) An Elder from the Koori community.
- 4.3 All members of CAEB shall be from varying cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Clause 5 Cultural Education in Schools

- 5.1 Cultural education in schools shall include, but not be limited to;
- (a) A focus on the global cultural community;
 - (b) The history of languages and cultures;
 - (c) Non-western art forms and musical instruments.
- 5.2 A minimum of three classes per fortnight shall be devoted to cultural education.
- 5.3 The board shall design the study guide in collaboration with the following;
- (a) The VCAA;
 - (b) Department of Education;
 - (c) The Education Minister;
 - (d) Representative from Polynesian and Indigenous community members;
 - (e) Current history teachers;
 - (i) CAEB shall determine the number of history teachers.

- 5.4 All schools shall provide culturally and ethnically extracurricular activities that celebrate diversity.

Clause 6 Secondary Teacher Cultural Education

- 6.1 Each current Victorian secondary teacher shall undergo mandatory cultural awareness training, which;
- (a) Shall be a total of 8 hours;
 - (b) Shall include online modules and face to face training;
 - (c) Must be completed every 6 months.
- 6.2 Diverse cultural education shall be included in all teaching university studies.
- 6.3 The training shall include but is not limited to;
- (a) First Nations cultural awareness;
 - (b) Australian colonisation history;
 - (c) Polynesian history;
 - (d) Racial trauma.

Clause 7 Community Cultural Hubs

- 7.1 Community Cultural Hubs (CCH) shall be established in every local government area in Victoria;
- (a) CCH shall be accessible for all, including but not limited to;
- (i) Wheelchair ramps;
 - (ii) Electronic sliding doors;
 - (iii) Tactile paving;
 - (iiii) Deaf and hard of hearing assistance.
- 7.2 CCH shall be responsible for the following;
- (a) Cultural festivals;
 - (b) Cultural workshops;
 - (c) Cultural programs.
- 7.3 Within the CCH, there shall be access to:
- (a) A mental health practitioner specialising in varying cultural mental health experiences;

- (b) First Nations bush healers;
- (c) A general practitioner.

Clause 8 Community Cultural Hubs Subcommittees

- 8.1 Each CCH shall have a subcommittee.
- 8.2 Each subcommittee shall comprise of a minimum of 10 culturally diverse young people
 - (a) These young people shall be from the CCH local government area.
- 8.3 Each subcommittee shall be responsible for the organisation and facilitation of the following:
 - (a) Cultural festivals;
 - (b) Cultural workshops;
 - (c) Cultural programs.
- 8.4 Each subcommittee shall report to the board once every 6 months;
 - (a) The report shall include information and data on the following:
 - (i) Community engagement;
 - (ii) Anonymous wellbeing reports regarding those who have engaged with the CCH;
 - (iii) The subcommittee's next project;
 - (iv) The result of the previous project.
 - (b) The report shall be due one year after commencement of the CCH.