

Gender Romantic and Sexuality Minorities (GRSM) Inclusive Education Bill 2022

A Bill for an Act to create a Gender Romantic and Sexuality Minorities (GRSM) inclusive health curriculum via the creation and implementation of new curriculum and the revision of existing curriculum, with a focus on the GRSM community and sexual education.

This Bill aims to amend the errors and information gaps in the current health curriculum and implement an extensive and practical curriculum, with a specific focus on GRSM inclusion. The current curriculum fails to adequately teach students about sexual education. This leaves all students without adequate information to engage in safe sex. What is taught is done so in a cisheteronormative way, leaving GRSM students with even less practical information than their peers. By failing to equip students with an appropriate understanding of sex education, the current health curriculum leaves students at greater risk of sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancy, as well as lacking the fundamental knowledge they require.

Schools currently fail to adequately teach students about GRSM identities and experiences, such as, but not limited to, transgender and non-binary identities, and a variety of both romantic and sexual orientations, including same-gender attraction and attraction to multiple genders. This overlooks students within the GRSM community and places them at even greater risk than their peers, as well as creating an unsafe environment. Students need and deserve to have the highest standard of learning delivered in an environment that is both safe and welcoming. This bill seeks to meet that need.

A Bill for an Act relating to Gender Romantic and Sexuality Minorities (GRSM) Inclusive Education to be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this act are—

- (a) To create an external body to manage the development and implementation of a GRSM-inclusive curriculum;
- (b) To provide professional development and training for teachers;
- (c) To provide external facilitators to schools to aid in the delivery of the new curriculum.

Clause 2 Commencement

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

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill—

- (a) **Gender** means the broad spectrum of characteristics forming an individual's internal identity;
- (b) **Expression** means the way in which an individual presents themselves, typically through their physical appearance, dress, and behaviour;
- (c) **Romantic orientation** means an individual's pattern of emotional attraction to others regardless of their sexual orientation;
- (d) **Sexual orientation** means an individual's pattern of sexual attraction to others regardless of their romantic orientation;
- (e) **Biological sex** means a person's chromosomes, gonads, and genitals, and also includes the role and functionality of sex hormones such as estrogen and testosterone;
- (f) **Intersex** means variations of sexual anatomy or sexual development that do not fit typical binary notions of a 'male' or 'female' biological sex;
- (h) **Sexual intimacy** means sexual activity, including but not limited to penetrative and non-penetrative sex, and non-physical intimacy such as sending sexually explicit photographs or messages;
- (i) **GRSM** means Gender Romantic and Sexuality Minorities;
- (j) **Rainbow families** means a GRSM parented family.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment of an Overseeing Body

- 4.1 The Gender, Romantic-Orientation & Sexuality Minorities Inclusive Education Alliance (GRSMIEA) shall be established to oversee all aspects of this Bill.
- 4.2 The GRSMIEA shall provide oversight of the development and implementation of an GRSM-inclusive sexual education curriculum.
- 4.3 The GRSMIEA shall be an independent entity under the Department of Education, consisting of a board and paid employees.

Clause 5 Implementation of New Curriculum

- 5.1 The GRSMIEA's curriculum shall be incorporated into the current health curriculum by adding it as a part of the Health and Physical Education sector.
- 5.2 The curriculum shall be implemented by the GRSMIEA in all Victorian Government high schools.
- 5.3 All content in revised health classes including the new GRSM-inclusive content shall be taught co-educationally where possible.

Clause 6 Delivery of New Curriculum

- 6.1 Health teachers shall facilitate GRSMIEA's curriculum;
 - (a) Facilitators provided by the GRSMIEA will be present and in charge of conducting at least three health classes per year.
- 6.2 Individual schools shall be required to provide enough time for facilitators to get through assigned content.
- 6.3 Any additional sessions with a facilitator are up to the discretion of individual schools.

Clause 7 Provision of Curriculum and Facilitators to Schools

- 7.1 The GRISMIEA shall provide the curriculum to Victorian Government Schools.
- 7.2 The GRSMIEA shall fund and provide facilitators external to schools.

Clause 8 Professional Development and Training for Teachers

- 8.1 The GRSMIEA shall offer professional development workshops for teachers and staff prior to the implementation of the curriculum.
- 8.2 The GRSMIEA shall conduct refresher courses annually.

Clause 9 Content to be Included in the Curriculum

- 9.1 Any curriculum developed shall be non-cisheteronormative.
- 9.2 All content delivered shall vary at the discretion of GRSMIEA, with different content taught across various year levels.
- 9.3 Content to be included in the Year 7 curriculum shall include, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Anatomy, including the names and functions of all relevant body parts;
 - (b) Puberty;
 - (c) Basic contraceptive options;
 - (d) General risks of unsafe sexual intimacy;
 - (e) An introduction to sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
 - (f) Biological sex as a concept including intersex variations;
 - (g) The distinction between biological sex and gender;
 - (h) The distinction between expression and identity in the context of gender;
 - (i) The distinction between romantic orientation and sexual orientation;
 - (j) Explanation and definition of gender, sexuality, and romantic identities;
 - (k) Rainbow families;

- (l) Alternative methods of contraception including in-vitro fertilisation (IVF);
 - (m) Common misconceptions;
 - (n) Mental health in relation to sexual intimacy.
- 9.4 Content to be included in the Year 8 curriculum shall include, but is not limited to:
- (a) Further exploration of the content delivered in Year 7;
 - (b) The curability and treatability of different STIs;
 - (c) Sexual pleasure and what to expect during sexual intimacy.
- 9.5 Content to be included in the Year 9 curriculum shall include, but is not limited to:
- (a) Further exploration of the content delivered in Years 7 and 8;
 - (b) Practical information about having safe sexual intimacy;
 - (c) Further information on biological sex as a concept and intersex variations;
 - (d) Where and when to get an STI test;
 - (e) Where and how to get contraception;
- 9.6 Content to be included in the Year 10 curriculum shall be a further exploration of the content delivered in previous years.

Clause 10 Parental Choice and Responsibility

- 10.1 If the primary caregiver of a child does not want them to receive the curriculum, they have the ability to withdraw their child from the program by delivering a signed letter to the school.
- 10.2 The cause for a withdrawal shall not be questioned by the external body GRSMIEA or by the school.