

PETITION to SUPPORT SAFE SCHOOLS IN NSW

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

This petition of citizens of New South Wales calls on the NSW government to make a commitment to maintain the Safe Schools program in NSW.

Safe Schools is a vital education program that is about inclusion and support. It addresses challenges faced by gender diverse students and students from diverse families. It is an important tool for the prevention of bullying and discrimination. Safe Schools is supported by parents, students and teachers from all walks of life. It has broad community support, particularly within LGBTIQ communities. Conservative attacks on Safe Schools have been based on scare campaigns and misleading information about what the program involves.

Safe Schools is an evidence-based program created by educators, to promote an environment where all students feel accepted and able to focus on their education. Research tells us that many young people who are victims of transphobic or homophobic abuse or bullying will attempt self-harm and it is essential that those young people are supported within their school communities. Ensuring that our young people feel safe and included at school is key to their wellbeing.

The undersigned petitioners ask the Legislative Assembly to:

- 1. Acknowledge that gender diverse students and students from diverse families may face particular challenges through their education.**
- 2. Commit to maintaining the Safe Schools program in NSW schools.**
- 3. Provide any funding required to ensure that the program can continue in NSW schools beyond 30 June 2017, when current federal funding is due to expire.**

Name	Address	Signature	Email (optional) *

Please return this petition to the office of Jenny Leong at 383 King St Newtown.
You can call (02) 9517 2800 or email jenny.leong@parliament.nsw.gov.au with any questions or comments.

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