

Minister for Education
Minister for Disability Services
Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council

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23 AUG 2024

Ms Elizabeth Caballero Pastor
Women Speak Tasmania
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Caballero Pastor

Thank you for your letter in regard to gender ideology and social transition at schools. I apologise for the delay of my reply.

The Tasmanian Government is deeply committed to the wellbeing of all children and young people in our beautiful State. Our goal is to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment for children, young people and staff, including members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Under the *Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act 1998*, we oppose any form of discrimination based on gender, sex or race within our schools. We understand that students will be in the best position to learn when they feel valued, safe and supported. Our Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy guides our efforts to ensure the safety, health and engagement of all students.

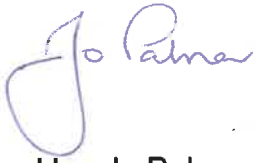
We have dedicated support staff, including School Support and Wellbeing Teams and Safeguarding Officers, who provide assistance to all students. Additionally, our teachers receive professional development in mental health and wellbeing to enhance their ability to identify and provide appropriate support to students and families. We also continue to prioritise student voice by conducting Student Voice Focus Groups and administering an annual Student Wellbeing Survey for those in Years 4 to 12.

Regarding your concerns relating to toilet facilities, if any student indicates discomfort with sharing gendered facilities, this should be addressed through the school's student support team.

All families are encouraged to reach out to their school support staff or their principal, if they have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of their children.

Once again, thank you for your letter and I hope my response has provided you with reassurance and understanding on these important matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jo Palmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jo" being more prominent.

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education