

Office of the Premier
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne
Victoria 3002

22 May 2023

*To the Premier of Victoria
The Hon. Daniel Andrews*

Re: Drag Queen Story Time in Parliament

Dear Premier,

You recently attended a Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) in Parliament House, ostensibly to oppose bigotry.

I attach an [article by Harper Keenan and Lil Miss Hot Mess](#) who were involved in organising Drag Queen Story Hour in the US.

You will be aware that the phenomenon spread to Australia from the US.

In the article the authors set out the reasons for DQST. They say:

“Queer theory has generally reflected pessimism about the future, and some queer theorists have rejected the compulsory reproductivity that children often represent in society (Edelman, 2004). However, following Munoz (2009), we suggest that DQSH offers a queer relationality with children that breaks from the reproductive futurity of the normative classroom and nuclear family.”

They also say:

“In discussing the work of DQSH within our social circles, we have occasionally encountered critiques that DQSH is sanitizing the risqué nature of drag in order to make it ‘family friendly.’ We do not share this pessimistic view. Queer worldmaking, including political organizing, has long been a project driven by desire. It is, in part, enacted through art forms like fashion, theatre, and drag.

“We believe that DQSH offers an invitation towards deeper public engagement with queer cultural production, particularly for young children and their families. It may be that DQSH is ‘family friendly’ in the sense that it is accessible and inviting to families with children, but it is less a sanitizing force than it is a preparatory introduction to alternate modes of kinship.”

Unpacking this word salad, the authors make it clear that **the aim of DQST is to shift children from attachment to their biological or nuclear family to an attachment to queer culture or kinship.**

Assuming that it is not your or your government's aim to sponsor a program which shifts children's attachment away from their natural family to queer kinship, I would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. Do you condemn any attempt by any group (including DQST) to shift children away from their attachment to their natural family?
2. Do you agree that a child's natural family is the best place for a child to be nurtured and any move to shift children from those families to "alternative modes of kinship" is harmful?
3. Will you commission an inquiry to ascertain the aims of DQST in Australia?

This letter is an open letter and has been copied to other MPs.

Yours sincerely,



Jasmine Yuen
State Coordinator | VIC
Australian Christian Lobby