

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Hate speech in a local high school  
**Date:** Wednesday, 26 May 2021 2:40:48 PM

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Dr Kachina Allen  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

In reference to your call for information on hate speech.

I have 6 biological, adopted, and foster children at [REDACTED] State High school in years 7, 8, and 9. Five of my children identify as LGBT+; two of whom are transgender. Four of my children are African American, and one Aboriginal.

At the school they have been exposed to daily bullying with sexist, homophobic, transphobic, and racist slurs used on a daily basis. E.g. they have been repeatedly told to die because they are Black, or to “go back to slavery”. The school does little to combat bullying. Slurs have even been used by teachers. The bullying is intensifying to the point where one child frequently has to miss classes due to panic attacks, and another just sits and cries through classes.

The guidance officer [REDACTED] used the last LGBT+ meeting to tell students that they should not be offended by the phrase “it’s so gay” as it is not homophobic (despite this very phrase being targeted by the bully project and minus 18 for the harm it causes to LGBT+ students).

At this point, I am deeply concerned about the emotional, psychological, and physical safety of my children (and others) at the school. The hate speech is intensifying and the school seems unable (and uninterested) in preventing it, despite this kind of verbal abuse being illegal and not tolerated in any other facet of Australian society.

The principal [REDACTED] offers only platitudes and appears to lack understanding that some student groups may face more discrimination and bullying than others.

While the school does have an anti-bullying framework, it is not being utilized, and the school wellness officer [REDACTED] has told one of my children that all they can do is ask the bullies (e.g. children regularly referring to him as a [REDACTED] to stop— that the school cannot do anything to stop them. The guidance officer says that students should become more resilient (this appears to be his justification for doing nothing). Several of my children now fear going to school as they do not believe that they are physically safe. My child (foster care, Aboriginal, trans) refuses to attend as the bullying has been escalating and he (and I) do not believe that the school will act to ensure his safety. I have escalated the issue to his case worker and the Department of Children, Youth Justice, and Multicultural affairs.

This is not to say that all the staff at the school are poor. There are some excellent teachers who are very supportive of students. However the wellbeing and head staff appear to be (at best) indifferent to children with differences or (at worst) actively transphobic, homophobic and

racist.

This climate of permitted racial, homophobic, and transphobic slurs makes it difficult for my children to learn, and very damaging for their psychological and emotional health and wellbeing. The police have told me to equip my children with recording devices as the school will not act as (with recordings) we may be able to get outside assistance.

It is truly awful that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century children at school are still being targeted by terrible speech that appears to be escalating. I ask the government to put in place further protections for children at school. All children deserve a fair and safe access to education.

Sincerely,

Kachina Allen

**Kachina Allen, PhD**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]