


OFFICIAL



South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance  
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30 July 2024

Emailed to [AttorneyGeneral@sa.gov.au](mailto:AttorneyGeneral@sa.gov.au)

Dear The Hon Kyam Maher MP, Attorney General of South Australia

**RE: LGBTIQA+ Vilification**

As the peak body for the LGBTIQA+ community in South Australia, we write to you regarding our concerns about the lack of protection from vilification for our community, as evidenced recently at a Rainbow Storytime held in Salisbury.

A recent Rainbow Storytime event in Salisbury Council Library held on 15 July 2024 was ambushed by protestors who were permitted (in presence of SAPOL Officers) to intimidate attendees with a megaphone, yelling and held up signs making abhorrent statements such as comparing the LGBTIQ+ community to pedophiles. Some of the protestors were from the National Socialist Network, a far right neo-nazi political organisation.

This had a significant impact on many families who attended this event, including children. For some, the experience was so scary and unsafe that they left rather than attending the event.

I am sure you will agree that this is disgraceful, hurtful and unacceptable - and that all families should have the right to safely take our children to public events free from threats and hate speech.

Sadly, it is not the first time this has occurred. Similar protesters have turned up to events such as Pride of the South, seeking to intimidate and vilify LGBTIQA+ community members for who they are.

This cannot be allowed to continue.

In New South Wales, homosexual vilification is against the law. This is not the case in South Australia.

On behalf of our members, and the broader LGBTIQA+ community in South Australia, we urge the Malinauskas Labor Government to introduce legislation to prohibit vilification on the basis of sexuality or gender identity.

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Nobody should experience the discrimination and hurtful experience we saw in Salisbury. While this continues to be permitted, we will continue to see worse health outcomes, including mental health outcomes, for members of the LGBTIQ+ community. The reality for our community is that these experiences are becoming more common and more aggressive - in turn more unsafe for the LGBTIQ+ community.

The Weatherill Labor Government introduced significant reforms for the LGBTIQ+ community, and we see this legislation as an important opportunity for the Malinauskas Labor Government to make the same progressive reform to protect all members of the community so they can live their lives free from discrimination and hate.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this with you further. I can also be contacted via email at [chair@saraa.org.au](mailto:chair@saraa.org.au)

Yours sincerely,

Varo