

### **Tabled Petition Response**

**Petition No:** 601  
**Petition Sponsored by:** Bev McArthur  
**Tabled on:** 4 December 2024  
**Title:** Cease the rollout of the Rainbow Libraries Toolkit

#### **Petition Grievance:**

The Petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the need for the Government to withdraw the Rainbow Libraries Toolkit rollout to Victorian public libraries.

For every person somehow validated by 'inclusive ' questions, many more will feel uncomfortable, insecure and confused. Parents should not have to worry that a visit to the library could confuse or indoctrinate their children. Librarians should not be required to implement the Government's social engineering agenda. Five year olds are far too young to need to consider their sexual orientation or "gender identity".

The Petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to cease the rollout of the Rainbow Libraries Toolkit to Victorian public libraries.

#### **Response:**

I thank the member for Western Victoria for raising this matter on behalf of the petitioners.

Public libraries are vibrant community hubs that provide all Victorians with universal access to information. They offer a safe space for social interaction, digital connection, lifelong learning, and rich cultural experiences.

The Rainbow Libraries Toolkit was developed and circulated by Public Libraries Victoria in response to a need for better information and training to support public library staff following a rise in the vilification of LGBTIQ+ communities and targeting of inclusive events.

The Victorian Government provided financial support to Public Libraries Victoria to develop the toolkit as a resource to assist public library staff to ensure that all Victorians, regardless of their identity, have a place in our libraries. Each of Victoria's public library services are able to determine how they utilise this resource.



**The Hon Melissa Horne MP**

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Roads and Road Safety