

**SENIOR SECONDARY ASSESSMENT BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
(REVIEW) AMENDMENT BILL**

21 November 2007

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I rise to indicate Family First's view regarding this bill. The government's briefing notes on this bill talk about establishing an 'expert panel' to replace the current SSABSA. In reality, we are talking about a government appointed board taking over the current representative board. There are many parallels between this takeover and other recent government takeovers.

This bill will extinguish the current 27 member board, which is made up of representatives from all education sectors to control the curriculum. In its place, an 11-member 'non-sector' board will be appointed by the government. The notion of the Minister for Education and Children's Services hiring and firing the people responsible for setting our curriculum—that is, setting the total agenda—concerns me. Why is this change necessary? The minister's stated reason during the second reading debate was that changes to the board were necessary to 'enable the introduction of future South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)'.

During our briefing, I asked why the current board would be unable to introduce the new SACE. There is some merit in the argument that the current board is too large, with 27 members—most boards are smaller than that—but is this an attempt to disband a board that is unlikely to accept the ongoing changes of the SACE? I am left wondering what will be in the new SACE if the minister needs to hand-pick a board in order to approve it. Will the SHine SA Share or RASH sex education program be mandatorily rolled out to all schools under the new SACE? Let me remind members that SHine SA has been organised under the banner of the AIDS Council of South Australia, with shared premises and, despite all its efforts to remove references to the AIDS Council from its website and vice versa, they are linked.

How we can let people with these links be responsible for teaching our children about sex, or anything else for that matter, is beyond me. The AIDS Council, despite its noble name and charter, is an organisation that seems to operate in a bubble of total unaccountability. It was reported last year that it refers its disabled clients to prostitutes (*The Advertiser* 15/9/06); and it publishes magazines extolling the wonders of using drugs with statements such as, 'Children are a blessing, you never know when you need someone to go out and score for you', as reported in *The Advertiser* of 25 June.

If you want a job with that organisation, its employment criteria list drug use as a requirement (*The Advertiser* 19 October). Most recently, as reported in last Saturday's *Advertiser*, it has been caught using taxpayer funds to print pictures of men whipping a woman on a cross. In fact, all these activities have been funded by the taxpayer. This is the organisation which the minister wants to teach our children about sex! Family First is therefore concerned that the dissolving of the current board and the replacement of that board with a hand-picked board may pave the way for the introduction of any radical agenda that the minister or future ministers may deem fit.

I acknowledge the proposed amendment to allow for one representative each from the Catholic, independent and public schools. However, three members out of 11 is still very low. Family First believes that a more modest change would have been more appropriate.