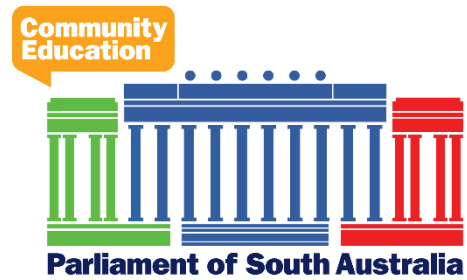


The No Homework Bill



Clerk:

First Line

Honourable Members please stand.

Rules

1. Always stand up to speak.
2. Always address your remarks through the Speaker.
3. Address the Speaker as “Madam Speaker”, “Mr. Speaker” or “Speaker.”
4. Members speak without interruption.
5. The Speaker keeps order.

Bill – First Reading

The No Homework Bill

A Bill for an Act to stop teachers from setting homework in all South Australian schools.

The Bill stops teachers from setting homework tasks to do after the school day.

This Bill aims to give students more free time to spend with friends and family.

Speaker:

Members, please sit down. Parliament is now in session. The rules of the Parliament must be obeyed. Clerk, please read out the rules.

The No Homework Bill will now be debated. Clerk, please read out the Bill.

I call on the Minister for Education to introduce the Bill

I call on the Leader of the Opposition

I call on the Premier

I call on the Shadow Minister for Education

I call on the Member for Narnia (*first Government backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Hogwarts (*first Opposition backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Mordor (*second Government backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Atlantis (*second Opposition backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Pride Rock (*third Government backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Springfield (*minor party Member*)

I call on the Member for Pemberley (*independent Member*)

Does anyone else wish to speak on the Bill? Stand if you wish to speak.

I call on

I call on the Minister for Education to close the debate.

A vote on the bill will now be taken. All those in favour say “aye”

All those against say “no”

The ayes/noes have it

A division has been called. Clerk, ring the bells.

Those who support banning homework will move to the right of the chair. Those who do not support it will move to the left of the chair.

The result is # who want to ban homework, and # who want to keep homework.

The Bill has/has not passed.

In a tie: There being equal votes for and against the Bill I cast my vote for the Bill. The ideas put forward by the Honourable Members have made me decide to vote for the Bill.

Minister for Education

(Member for Endor)

First speech

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I move that this Bill be read a second time.

I am very happy to bring this Bill to the House and to change the lives of students in South Australia.

Our Government has thought long and hard about what is important to young people in our schools. Students need to have time to socialise with their friends and enjoy time with their families.

Homework stops students from connecting with other people and makes them do tasks by themselves which are not helpful and are not fun.

Second speech

Thank you to all Members for your ideas and talking in the debate. I hope you will support this Bill. I move that this Bill be read a second time.

Leader of the Opposition

(Member for Asgard)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

What a lot of RUBBISH!

How are our students going to become clever and learn new things if we don't set them homework?

Homework gives young people tasks to complete at home with friends and family. Doing work at home helps students remember what they have learned and gives the family something to do together.

It's silly for the Minister to say that homework stops students from connecting with other people – homework can be tasks that help them connect with other people!

Premier

(Member for El Dorado)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

We need to think about what is best for the people of South Australia. Young people need to be active, get plenty of exercise and spend time outdoors.

Students are stuck inside throughout the school day, and it is impacting their wellbeing. Studies have shown that students are more stressed than ever.

After school we need to give young people in South Australia time to relax after long and stressful days. They need to spend time outside.

If school isn't a place to sleep, then home isn't a place to learn!

Shadow Minister for Education

(Member for Skyrim)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

Yes, Premier, you always know what is right – or so you think you do!

What about skills and learning? Does our Premier really think students have enough time in the very short school day to learn everything they need to know? Is the Premier against students practising their learning at home, or learning problem solving skills?

Homework does not have to be tasks done inside at a desk. Homework can be getting young people out into their community and making them be active. It is a positive thing for students, no matter what they want to do in the future!

Member for Narnia

(First Government Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

Homework needs to be banned!

The opposition is not thinking about the poor teachers. Why do we expect them to fill the day with classes and activities for students and then ALSO create homework to give to students after the school day? I've spoken to teachers in my electorate and they are working too hard!

Teachers deserve to rest as much as students do! The extra work put in to making, handing out, and marking homework is unfair.

Students can learn valuable lessons without doing homework.

Member for Hogwarts

(First Opposition Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

What rubbish comes out of the mouths of this Government.

Homework is very important for the development of young people.

Young people need to see that learning is a lifelong journey. You do not stop learning because you leave the classroom or because you leave school.

Learning is a part of life, therefore, young people need to do homework to explore, learn new things, and give themselves the skills to succeed in life.

Member for Mordor

(Second Government Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

For once I actually agree with the Opposition. Learning is a lifelong activity and something we all do.

BUT not as homework!

We learn naturally when a question comes to us and we want to find out the answer, not because some teacher has decided to set students extra work at the end of the day.

Homework should be banned so students can learn by actions and solving problems, the natural way to learn.

I hope all my fellow Members of Parliament here today will support this Bill.

Member for Atlantis

(Second Opposition Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

How do we learn to research questions that occur to us?

How do we learn problem solving skills?

How do we learn the reading, writing and maths skills we need to function every day?

We can do this because we learned these skills at school and in our homework.

A little homework each night helps young people understand why learning is important and reminds them what they have learned in class. No matter what students want to do in their lives, learning how to problem solve and research issues are important skills to develop.

Member for Pride Rock

(Third Government Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

This Opposition is completely out of touch with what the young people of South Australia need. There's a reason they are in Opposition and not Government, South Australia don't trust them to lead!

We should be trusting students to lead their own learning. Students should be able to choose whether they need to do revision and homework and how much work they need to do.

Teachers would be banned from setting homework; but students would not be banned from studying.

Our Government is trying to give students the power over their learning.

Member for Springfield

(Minor Party Member)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I understand the point of what the Government is trying to do but I think they are going about it the wrong way.

I agree that students should not be stuck indoors after a full day of school and need more time socialising with friends and family. However, I also think education is important and young people need to learn how to figure out problems and practice their learning.

I think this Bill should be changed so that teachers can set active homework that includes problem solving, like issues to work on with friends while doing a physical activity.

I think this would let students learn while being social and active.

Member for Pemberley

(Independent Member)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I agree that both the Government and Opposition make important points about what is best for young people.

I think the best way to make sure students can socialise and be active, as well as learn important skills for the rest of their lives, is to allow homework but limit the amount.

Homework should be allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. This lets students be active and social on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as on the weekends.