



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Education

SPEECH

Thursday, 9 February 2017

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Questioner
Speaker Kelly, Craig, MP

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Mr CRAIG KELLY (Hughes) (15:57): The member for Sydney had the audacity to mention the word 'mendacity' in this MPI. This MPI, which the opposition titled, 'The government's failure to properly fund schools,' and their repeated statement that the government is cutting funding from schools—and I am sorry to say this word in the chamber—is a lie. The whole basis of Labor's argument on education is fundamentally based on a mistruth. They think that if they can tell a lie over and over and over again it will hopefully somehow resonate with the public. I say: shame on every one of you. At least come into this chamber and tell the truth about what is happening to school funding. The truth is that, under this government, we are at record levels. We are now spending \$20 billion more than the previous, Labor government. Funding for education under this coalition government is 25 per cent higher. So do not come into this chamber or run around your electorates and spread the lie that the coalition is cutting funding to education. It is completely and utterly untruthful. It is a lie. I am sorry to say that word in this chamber. What we need to concentrate on is that funding is important, and that is why this coalition government has education funding at record levels. But it is not just about the funding. We have to make sure that we are teaching our kids skills and talents that will do them well once they leave school.

I would like to highlight one thing that is being taught in our schools at the moment, called 'Building Respectful Relationships'. I would like to let the House know that this is being taught in our schools and, if we wonder why we are behind countries like Kazakhstan, could I put to you that this is one of the reasons. This is a role-playing game that girls in year 9 are doing—

Mr Hill interjecting—

Mr CRAIG KELLY: They've dropped it. They are given the character parts. For example, they could play the character of Megan. This is a description of what they are told to learn about Megan, the character they play:

Megan is 17, lives in the city and works in a local cafe. She has had 15 sexual partners and describes herself as bisexual. She has casual sex and some short-term partners, including two women. She rarely practises safe sex. She forgets to protect herself because she is often drunk when she has sex.

That is what our children are being taught to role play. Another character they could play is a girl called Grace:

Grace is 16 and in year 10—

And remember, this is a year 9 girl playing this—

She has been sexually active since she was 13.

Mr Hill interjecting—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Bruce is warned!

Mr CRAIG KELLY: Or there is another one called Kelly—this is what a year 9 girl is asked to role play in our schools today, and you wonder why our education is going backwards.

Kelly is 14, in year 9 and is very interested in girls. She is not sure but thinks she might be a lesbian.

Kelly quotes:

I think I'm a lesbian, but I'm not sure because I've also been attracted to a boy. I guess this gives me more options than most.

Members of the opposition laugh at this, and this may very well be funny for blokes drinking down at the pub. But this is what is being taught to year 9 girls in our schools today, and we wonder why we are going backwards. We would like to have as much funding for education as we can.

In this debate the deputy opposition leader talked about the so-called cuts or the changes that we are making to the company tax rate, so I would like to quote a passage from a book written by the shadow Treasurer: *Hearts & minds*. He actually has a separate chapter here under the heading 'Promoting growth through cutting the company tax', and I will quote exactly from his book. I am sure the other members would like to know what the shadow Treasurer thinks about cutting company tax. He says:

One of the more controversial reforms by Paul Keating as Treasurer was slashing the corporate tax rate from 49 per cent to 39 per cent in 1989 ... I was a fresh-faced—

this is the shadow Treasurer—

Labor Party branch member at the time, and I recall the party as a whole being incredulous that a Labor government would cut the tax rate for 'fat-cat companies'. I remember a motion by the Young Labor conference calling for the corporate tax rate to be lifted to 60 per cent to pay for a program for social reform.

Opposition members interjecting—

What actually happened when Keating cut the company tax rate? We know that when he cut the company tax rate from 49 per cent down to 39 per cent, we did not lose one cent of corporate tax. We actually, within four years, were getting 60 per cent more revenue at 39 per cent than we had been at 49 per cent, and that has happened every time throughout our history. (*Time expired*)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I might remind the members on my left that several of them are out of place; they are disorderly. We nearly got through this MPI without anyone leaving. I hope we can keep it that way. The member for Lindsay has already been warned, and I am showing her a lot of leniency.