



MEDIA RELEASE

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Criminalise but also educate

FamilyVoice Australia spokesman David d'Lima says the public burning of the Australian flag should become a criminal offence, but wants a greater emphasis on educating young people about the meaning of "Australia's Star-Crossed Federal Blue Banner".

"Clearly the criminalisation of flag burning is necessary in a culture with growing minorities of sovereign citizens who despise the rule of law, and where too many people reject everything the flag represents," David d'Lima said.

"Our service personnel who fought and died for freedom under the flag must be turning in their graves."

FamilyVoice Australia believes criminal sanctions would send a strong message, but the organisation wants a greater emphasis on encouraging families and schools to understand the Australian flag's complex patriotic elements.

"The flag richly asserts Christian spirituality, federal unity and wider kinship that must be explored in the home and in the classroom," David d'Lima said.

"As we are one of very few nations whose flag emerged from consulting the people through a design competition, and under legislation the flag may be changed only by popular consent, the flag conveys strong democratic assertions."

FamilyVoice questions whether MPs should wear the flag as a drape, or if children should be encouraged to wear Australian Flag rubber thongs, but wants the debate to focus upon education about the national ensign.

"The real challenge is for families and schools to exhort emerging generations to once again appreciate our Star-Crossed Federal Blue Banner."

Further details:

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