

Mr Tim Watling Committee Secretary Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committees PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600	via e-mail: eevr.sen@aph.gov.au
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20 June 2013

Dear Committee Members

Inquiry into the Australian Education Bill 2013 (as amended) and the Australian Education (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee in relation to the amended *Australian Education Bill 2013*, and the *Australian Education (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013*.

Adventist Schools Australia, through a systemic structure, is responsible for the operations of 48 schools in Australia serving over 11,600 students and their families. Adventist schools are geographically, culturally and educationally diverse, while serving predominantly middle to lower socio-economic communities. As faith-based schools, our schools are overt and particular about the beliefs and values that underpin the schools' culture and practice.

Our schools have a strong culture of mission and service both at home and overseas. They educate students to be locally and globally active citizens, concerned about the welfare of others and about using their gifts to serve. The schools have attracted very strong community support as evidenced by their enrolment growth over the past decade.

Adventist Schools Australia is supportive of the submission made by Christian Schools Australia Limited. While urging the passage of the Bills we share the same concerns as raised in that submission in relation to the need for:

- integrity of the model and the principles that underpin it;
- transparency around the related agreements;
- broader stakeholder consultation;
- a more contemporary student definition;
- greater clarity in the definition of schools; and
- transparency and equity in the approval of non-government representative bodies.

For further discussion regarding this submission please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully

Dr Daryl Murdoch
National Director