

Dear Dr Nelson,

Recently I noted submissions being invited regarding Australia's state of Education.

There are many issues, I submit two opinions.

1. Mandate that secondary teachers have a specialist degree as well as an education faculty qualification. Eg. History teachers = BA, DipEd (or BEd); Science and Maths teachers = BSc/BAppSc, DipEd(or BEd) etc. A BEd alone does NOT nearly adequately provide the depth and breath of knowledge required to teach the students a specialist subject. High schools are plagued by teachers who are not properly grounded in the area that they purport to teach.

2. Mandate that promotion should be a reward for teachers who are suitably qualified academically, and have had success and experience in teaching a specialised field. Currently, there is a trend to promote teachers who are academically poor because selection criteria for promotion is based upon sub-standard, soft criteria such as pastoral care concepts and 'projects' such as belonging to a Bullying Committee or Student Welfare Committee etc. Pastoral care is important but all good teachers embed this in their daily teaching, it should not be seen as a road to promotion in itself. It is not uncommon to see teachers who struggle in the classroom sprint out of the classroom into promotional positions by taking advantage of weak selection criteria's as stated.

Until teachers are promoted primarily for academic competence, relevant to their teaching areas, the current farcical situation in educational standards will continue.

Sincerely,

Mr. G.J.Curran.