

SUBMISSION 1

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From: Patrick Tacey

Sent: Wednesday, 5 April 2006 6:01 PM

To: Committee (REPS)

Subject: Inquiry into civics and electoral education

I would like to submit a couple of short comments observations to the Inquiry into civics and electoral education.

1. As a teacher I have covered the areas of civics and electoral education incidentally mainly as relevant topics arise (eg state/federal/local governments elections, the census etc) and used the preferential voting system in the school for activities such as Junior School Councils elections and then meeting procedures. Civics covers much of what we teach in terms of values, life skills, being a valuable member of society, being involved in community projects such as National Clean Up and National Tree Planting Day. It is through such activities that we are able to cover civics and citizenship within a crowded curriculum.
2. In regards to civics a clearer definition of expected outcomes could be developed because it is such a broad area of study.
3. Students in our schools could become better informed if members of the local electoral commission offices (or specially trained teachers employed by the electoral commission) were to visit schools during the "low" times between elections with programs aimed at different age groups that build the children's understanding of our electoral system. (Something like the road safety programs run by the RACV.)
4. Electoral Office Education Centre in Canberra is a wonderful resource for those lucky enough to visit or live in Canberra; maybe a similar resource could be made available in larger regional centres or provided electronically to schools.

Thank you

Yours truly

Patrick Tacey

Acting Principal

Creswick North Primary School