Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

Inquiry into Commonwealth Funding for Schools

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10th June 2004



Submission to the Senate Committee of Enquiry

This submission is made on behalf of the Cranbourne Christian College, a low fee Ecumenical School, we began in 1994 with 57 students and now ten years later have grown to 630. The school serves a variety of Christian traditions, the Anglican, Uniting and Salvation Army are participating churches with membership on the school's Board of Management.

As a low fee school (average fees of \$3,000 per annum), we have sought to be a positive school of choice to the widest sectors of the community.

The new funding formula SES has been certain assurance to us of being able to continue. It reflects more accurately the family levels of income and their ability to support their choice of school.

We would plead with the committee that in its consideration, the fairness of funding families in their ability to make educational choices be preserved in the SES formula.

In remembering the responsibility of Government in funding public schooling is not only recurrent cost but capital investment as well, we would ask that the principle of tax deductibility be considered for all areas of educational spending by school families. It is reasonable to say that wherever families spend money on schooling they are adding to the total investment in education. I believe this should be recognised for all sectors.

Yours sincerely

Evelyn Sayers PRINCIPAL

> Principal: Mrs Evelyn L. Sayers BEd, Grad Dip Health Ed, Dip Tch, T.P.T.C., M.A.C.E.