

Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education
References Committee

Inquiry into Commonwealth Funding for Schools

Submission no: 9

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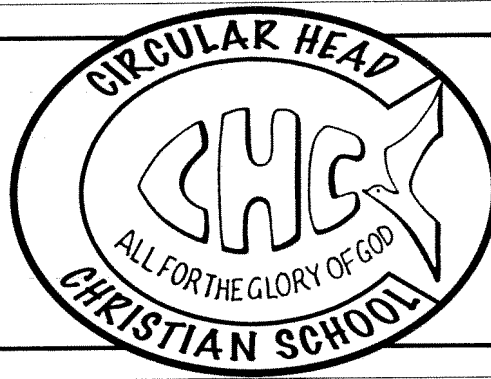
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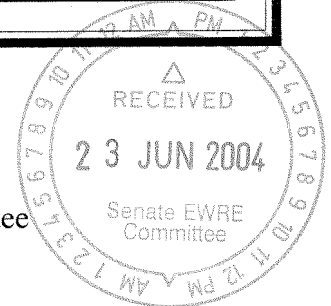
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The Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee
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Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir

INQUIRY INTO FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Introduction

Our school is a Kindergarten to grade 12 co-educational day school based on a single campus located in Smithton, Tasmania. We are a member of the Christian Parent Controlled Schools organisation with an SES score for the coming quadrennium of 88. In the past we had an ERI level of 11 and then an initial SES score of 91. The school was established in 1985. Our CASPA number is 5272.

Our current enrolment total is 269, being made up of 154 primary students and 115 secondaries.

Our 2004 school budget figures show the following income percentages:

Australian Govt. funding	58% of income
State Govt. funding	24% of income
Private income	18% of income

Key Points

- Our parents are very thankful that a choice in schools exists within even a small community like ours. Our school has a very strong Christian ethos and parents come looking for a Christian value system. We hope that future funding structures will allow Christian schools to receive government help and, consequently, to permit a choice in schools for parents to remain.
- As budget figures show, we are largely dependent upon and very thankful for government funding to ensure our future sustainability. Due to our being in a lower socio economic area, our percentage of private income is not likely to rise, but perhaps even decrease in the future. Thus we appeal to the government to keep funding for schools such as ours at an equivalent level in the future.

- We believe that the new SES model for funding is much fairer than the ERI system and we would prefer to see it retained.
- In our school this year, private sources will contribute approximately \$350000 towards the functioning of the school. This, together with the millions of private income dollars contributed in all private schools around Australia, is a great saving to governments.
- Due to our desire to have our school open to the full spectrum of people in the community, regardless of their income, the school was established as a low fee paying institution. Thus we do not see ourselves as elitist in any way, but serving the whole community of Circular Head in the educational arena. For this reason, we believe we are worthy of on-going government financial support.

Yours faithfully,



Noel Eagling
Principal

June 18th, 2004