

Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education
References Committee

Inquiry into Commonwealth Funding for Schools

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SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE COMMONWEALTH FUNDING OF SCHOOLS

SUBMISSION BY THE FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN QUEENSLAND

PRINCIPLES

1. NATIONAL ROLE OF EDUCATION
 - Government recognition of education as critical for the future of the nation
 - OECD comparison – Spending as % of GDP
 - National vision – Adelaide Declaration
2. QUALITY EDUCATION
 - Teachers – pre service, professional development, flexibility
 - Curriculum development – national standards, testing
 - Technology
 - Students with disabilities, indigenous students
 - Community involvement
 - All sectors need to be strong, collaborative and cooperative
3. PARENTS AS MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS
 - Primary educators of their children
 - Joint parent action – JPC – Qld position - 40% in both sectors
 - Parent representation on authorities, acting as advocates
4. PARENTAL CHOICE
 - Fundamental right
 - Catering for those without choice – rural and remote, disadvantaged,
 - Catholic system preferential option for the poor – Kingston
5. NEEDS BASED FUNDING
 - Equity for all – raising and maintaining standards
 - Formula – e.g. Group Funding in Qld
 - Federal Catholic school funding – lack of recurrent, capital, SWD, technology, vocational education
 - Fewer Catholic families can afford fees and charges – Vic research
 - Full funding estimate - \$2 billion

6. **GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS**
 - Remove acrimony between levels of government
 - Present situation allows governments to abdicate responsibility – public v private
 - National projects - technology access, curriculum renewal

7. **ACCOUNTABILITY**
 - Schools to be accountable to their communities – planning, performance, review
 - Community involvement in school decision making – goal setting, performance review, teaching, learning, finance, technology, vision, mission

8. **SUBSIDIARITY**
 - Local decision making
 - Autonomy

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