



Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations, and Education Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I write with concerns in relation to federal budget changes which seriously affect indigenous educational institutions such as Tranby College in Sydney. I understand that with the new funding arrangements indigenous organisations will have to compete for funding with all other training institutions – indigenous or otherwise. The following are points that I believe should be considered and I trust that some reconsideration take place. Without education that is appropriate to them the situation of people who are indigenous in this country will continue to suffer. Obviously generous funding is essential to this process:-

- *The Government claims to be promoting "Practical Reconciliation" - what could be more practical than assisting educational initiatives such as these institutions provide?
- *Institutions such as Tranby provide critical support to Indigenous students, many of whom have to move away from their communities for this specialised, community oriented education.
- *They provide a solution to educational disadvantage suffered by many Indigenous people. In particular, they cater to students who have not been able to enter the education process earlier in their lives.
- *As well as providing education, they build links between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations within the Education sector and the wider community.
- *They provide ideas and impetus for the Reconciliation efforts of many people.
- *Finally, has any study been made of the potential results and implications of these changes. Does this proposal have serious educational aims, or is it a cost-cutting exercise?

We are familiar with Tranby's programs and achievements, and feel confident that the other similar institutions around Australia are providing equivalent services, and will suffer equally from these cuts.

I look forward to learning of a satisfactory outcome.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Herscovitch".

(Sr) E. Herscovitch