

Dear Mr Carter

As a parent who sends their child to an alternative parent-run school in Victoria, I believe the “holy grail” of a National Curriculum may end up as a poisoned chalice.

I am not sure that the development of this national curriculum will deliver the higher standards that are desired. I share the view of Ross Farrelly that *“Consolidating the eight different state and territory curricula into a single national curriculum changes the curriculum development environment from one which has some scope for competition, comparison and diversity into a monoculture in which there is a single solution imposed on every school in the country. This consolidation of decision-making is a recipe for the lowering of standards, not for raising them. At least with eight different state curricula, curriculum developers can easily compare their work with other states and debate the relative merits of various approaches. Under a national curriculum this ability to compare would be lost.”*

If you look at the learning outcomes of small, independent schools such as ours, I do not believe that our kids are “behind” in their education when they go to high school, indeed it has been commented that our kids are sociable, engaged kids with a high motivation to extend themselves in various fields of study.

I do hope you will take my views into account in the Senate Inquiry.

All the best

**Jeremy Skuse**