



COVENANT COLLEGE

OPERATED BY: GEELONG ASSOCIATION FOR PARENT-CONTROLLED CHRISTIAN
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31st October, 2008

Mr John Carter,

Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee,

Department of the Senate,

Canberra.

Dear Mr Carter,

Covenant College is a medium sized Christian School in Geelong. For 30 years we have provided Christ Centred education to many parents throughout Geelong, the bulk of our families come from low SES areas. Our parents make incredible sacrifices to come to Covenant because they believe that we provide the type of education that their children need, an education that works in partnership with them and their beliefs.

I am writing to you because I have some concern regarding the School Assistance Bill 2008.

Some of the concerns are as follows:

1. *Topic – Curriculum*

- a) Will we be able to continue our current educational program?
- b) If not – how will we meet the school's educational objectives and achieve our religious/cultural values?
- c) If not – what freedom will we have to meet the school's charter, needs and expectations of parents?

2. *Topic – Funding*

- a) Will we have to report our commercial-in-confidence financial information?
- b) Will information from our commercial-in-confidence Financial Questionnaire be made public?
- c) How does this commercial-in-confidence financial information help governments manage education?
- d) Will the State Government be responsible for the collection and dissemination of the school's financial data?
- e) If yes – will there be a guarantee that the State Government will not use this information for its funding models?
- f) Why is this financial information needed and what will it be used for?
- g) Will the school's financial information be the basis for new federal and state funding models?

I humbly ask that you consider these questions in the upcoming debate and that they are resolved prior to the Bill being accepted in the Senate.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Cox

PRINCIPAL

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