

RE: Senate Inquiry into Schools Assistance Bill 2008-10-29

Attention:

John Carter
Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter,

I would like to make a submission regarding this bill.

Firstly, I am concerned as a parent that this bill will infringe upon the rights and of schools to determine aspects of their own curricula. I am concerned that it will inhibit innovation and undermine a school's capacity to tailor its curriculum to the specific needs of its students.

Secondly, I am concerned that this bill will result in a drop in community activity and organization – which at ground level is their very life-blood. In both state and private schools we should seek to encourage community activity and participation. This makes for a much richer learning experience for the students. And it is these students that education legislation must ultimately serve. I am concerned that this bill will interfere with and undermine this freely given time and energy.

I seek assurance that schools will not be “shamed” for receiving donations. I seek assurance that a school's funding will not be cut simply because they are receive gifts or donations. Undermining such generosity to schools by passing this legislation will I believe, ultimately do far more damage than good.

I can appreciate what this bill sets out to achieve, however I think a more subtle and targeted approach is required. As it stands it is potentially very destructive and restrictive.

Sincerely,

Miranda Frankel