



# OLIVET CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

ENCOURAGING...EQUIPPING... EMPOWERING

89 Main Road Campbells Creek Vic 3451

Telephone 03 5472 3817

Fax 03 5470 6871

Email [admin@olivet.vic.edu.au](mailto:admin@olivet.vic.edu.au)

Website: [www.olivet.vic.edu.au](http://www.olivet.vic.edu.au)

---

John Carter  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600  
31-10-2008

Re: Senate Inquiry on the *Schools Assistance Bill*

Dear Senators,

With reference to the above Bill and its importance to the educational future of this state we feel that it is important that you have an understanding of the many perspectives of the various schools in Victoria.

Our mission statement:

The College is committed to the spiritual and academic development of each child, preparing them for effective service for Christ in today's world, working with parents/guardians in fulfilling their God-given responsibilities in the training of their child. "...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

Olivet Christian College is a small regional ecumenical school teaching the ACE program. Our families are prepared to travel within a 45 kilometre radius for their children to receive this education. Our parents make financial sacrifices as the majority are lower income and single parent families with 35% of the families holding Health Care Cards.

Olivet is the educational facility of choice for our families for three main reasons –

- Olivet is chosen because it is a safe, small environment for students who are not suited to a larger learning environment.
- Religious/cultural values are an integral part of the college.
- The academic outcome is evidenced when students move into higher secondary and tertiary studies.

As a small school our funding is critical to our viability. At the current time the National Curriculum has not yet been written and it is our understanding there is no guarantee for schools that they will be able to continue their current teaching and learning programmes or provide a modified or alternative curriculum beyond 2011. As the ACE system is an alternative curriculum we are concerned that this would threaten our independence and autonomy and our ability to offer the curriculum that best suits our parents and students and may result in lower government funding and higher fees.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it".  
(Proverbs 22:6).*

The college is more than pleased to operate in a transparent manner and will do whatever is needed to improve the student education process. Parents choose a school for many reasons which include assessing the curriculum, the facilities, and the student outcomes both in academics and character development. My understanding from conversations with families indicates the financial information of the college has no impact on this decision. If this information is not for the parents then why is the financial information needed and what will it be used for? Will the school's financial information be the basis for new federal and state funding models?

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Anne Revell  
Business Manager

*"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it".  
(Proverbs 22:6).*