



MENTONE

G R A M M A R

31 October 2008

Mr John Carter
Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
Department of Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter

I am writing to express the views and concerns of our school in relation to the *Schools Assistance Bill* which is currently before the Senate.

My name is Mal Cater and I am the Principal of Mentone Grammar in Melbourne. We are a coeducational K-12 school of approximately 1,100 students. We are a member of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria and affiliated with the Anglican Church of Australia. We have a strong values based pastoral program that is based upon fundamental Christian beliefs and values.

As a community we are concerned about some aspects of the Bill that may affect our school in a detrimental manner.

1. **Curriculum we aim to offer to our students** - will we be able to continue our current educational programme and if not will we be able to offer a non-secular values based education? What freedoms will we have as a school to design programmes and curriculum that meet the specific needs of our community?
2. **Funding** - will we have to report our commercial in confidence financial information and will this information be made public? How does this information help governments to manage education? Will this information be made available to the State Government and will they in turn use this information for the State Government funding model? Will this information ultimately be used to develop a new funding model at both a State and Federal level that rewards schools for creative accounting rather than considering the financial background of our community?

As a school community we feel strongly that the issues listed above would have a detrimental impact on our school both in our ability to deliver a sculptured curriculum and also to our ability to meet the financial needs of a growing school. Mentone Grammar offers a unique and desirable education that currently meets the needs of a large number of families in the Bayside area and it is important for the future success of the school that these issues are addressed by both State and Federal Governments.

Yours sincerely

M J Cater
Principal