



The
Isolated Children's Parents' Association
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC. • N.S.W. COUNCIL

Secretary: Mrs Helen Rogers," Yarto", Booligal NSW 2711
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Mr John Carter
Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter,

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of New South Wales Inc., (ICPA-NSW) is a voluntary parent organization that supports and is dependent on both the government and non-government systems of education.

ICPA-NSW recently met with the NSW Executive Officer of the Association of Independent Schools, Dr Geoff Newcombe in Sydney.

ICPA-NSW would like to support the current Schools Assistance Bill which is currently before a Senate Committee.

There are some provisions in the current Bill that hold some concerns for independent schools, specifically relating to the national curriculum and the requirement to identify all sources of school income. However:

- ICPA-NSW supports a national curriculum in principle as long as it retains sufficient flexibility for schools to adopt differing educational philosophies and approaches that are currently widely accepted. At present, there is little detail about how a national curriculum would cater for this.
- ICPA-NSW supports accountability and transparency in relation to educational and financial operations. ICPA's main concerns with the Bill relate to the lack of detail around the identification of all income sources for schools and the comparability of data between schools and school sectors.

ICPA-NSW supports the passage of the Schools Assistance Bill 2008 which is currently before a Senate Committee, without delay to ensure that critical funding for independent schools, funding for the Country Area Program and Non Government School Term Hostels is provided in a timely manner.

ICPA-NSW is continuing to work with the Association of Independent Schools NSW on these issues and is confident that this will lead to the negotiation of acceptable regulations for independent schools.

Yours sincerely

Helen Rogers
Secretary

10th November 2008.