



Queensland Catholic
Education Commission

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9 January 2003

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Education and Training
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I write on behalf of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) in relation to the Committee's inquiry into *Vocational Education in Schools*.

The Commission forwarded a submission to the Standing Committee prior to the closing date for submissions in October. In that submission the Catholic sector in Queensland presented a number of strong recommendations relating to Vocational Education in schools. Prominent among these recommendations was the need to encourage more students to complete Year 12 through the provision of worthwhile vocational education and training as part of the school curriculum. This outcome will only be possible to achieve through the continuation of the ANTA VET in Schools funding.

Since forwarding the QCEC submission to the Inquiry the Minister for Education in Queensland, The Honourable Anna Bligh MP, has provided me with a copy of the submission made to the Inquiry on behalf of Education Queensland. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission has made a commitment to work in partnership with the Queensland Government in the implementation of new educational reforms, *Queensland Smart State – Education & Training Reforms for the Future*. As these Queensland reforms will benefit all students in Queensland, there are a number of points made in the Minister's submission on which I would like to comment.

In particular I would like to draw your attention to the statistics relating to ANTA Vet in Schools grants and the inequitable funding to Queensland schools in comparison to other jurisdictions. Queensland receives 18% of the national allocation which is significantly less than either its proportion of students in Years 11-12 (21%) or students enrolled in VET (28%). This inequity is evident also in the funding provided by the Enterprise and Career Education Foundation to jurisdictions. Queensland received only 16.9% of these funds. These statistics are outlined on page 15 of the Minister's submission. I fully support the recommendations made by the Minister as follows:

That ANTA VET in Schools funds

- (a) continue beyond 2004, on an ongoing basis
- (b) increase substantially, to reflect the growth in numbers of students studying VET and the cost of this service
- (c) include a growth factor, to reflect the rapidly rising participation in VET in Schools
- (d) be allocated between jurisdictions by a more equitable model that takes into account student enrolment numbers and the participation in VET
- (e) be available with more flexibility for service delivery
- (f) increase to provide strong career guidance support for students undertaking VET in Schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in Schools and I trust that this letter of support for the aspects of the Education Queensland submission outlined above will receive your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe McCorley', written in a cursive style.

JOE McCORLEY
Executive Director