



AUSTRALIAN PARENTS COUNCIL Inc.

The national federation of organisations representing parents of students attending non-government schools to achieve choice, quality, equity and voice

National Office:
PO Box 5011
Launceston Tas 7250

Tel: 03 6334 8886
Fax: 03 6334 8862
Email: admin@austparents.edu.au

5 July 2011

Submission Number: 06
Date Received: 05/07/2011

The Secretary
House Standing Committee on Education and Employment
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into the Schools Assistance Amendment Bill 2011

The Australian Parents Council (APC) is the national organisation that represents the parents of students attending non-government schools.

The Bill which is the subject of the present Inquiry was introduced to give legislative effect to the undertaking of the Australian Government to extend recurrent funding for non-government schools (including general recurrent grants and grants for targeted programs) from 2012 to 2013, and to extend capital grants from 2012 to 2014.

The Prime Minister has given an unequivocal commitment to extend the funding assurance in legislation pending the outcomes of the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling, which is due to report in December 2011.

There is already considerable uncertainty in the non-government schooling sector in respect of funding beyond 2013 and 2014. While the Prime Minister has promised that there will be no reduction in funding in dollar terms, there has been no commitment that funding for non-government school students will continue to increase in real terms.

Further delay in the passing of the Schools Assistance Amendment (Financial Assistance) Bill 2011 can only increase the current feelings of uncertainty. The legislation must pass both houses of parliament and with the makeup of the Senate from 1 July 2011 and the negative policies of the Australian Greens in respect of funding for non-government school students, even further problems in the passing of the legislation may be experienced.

APC strongly urges the members of the Standing Committee to facilitate the speedy passage of the Bill in its current form. Many parents already make significant financial sacrifices to enable their choice of schooling for their children and further delays will only serve to increase financial pressures upon those parents.

Yours faithfully

IAN DALTON
Executive Director