



Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Broken Bay

Web: www.csodbb.catholic.edu.au

12 June 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission Number: 06
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By email: ee.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into the Australian Education (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013

On behalf of the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Broken Bay I lodge this submission to the Committee's inquiry into the Australian Education (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013. The views expressed in the attached submission relate only to the Diocese of Broken Bay and do not purport to represent the position of Catholic systems or schools in other dioceses.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

In relation to section 54 of the substantive Australian Education Bill ('the Bill'), "Capacity to contribute percentage" (page 35), following section three, we recommend that the values in *Column 3 Secondary School* be amended as proposed in the attachment to this submission.

RATIONALE

Firstly, the proposed amendments to the scales for the private capacity to pay for secondary students would ameliorate the impact of section 38 of the Bill, which deals with the low socio-economic status student loading. Section 38 provides a loading for low socio-economic (quartile 1) students which, theoretically, ranges from 15% to 61.7%. However, s38(3) limits the maximum loading to 50% for schools with very high proportions of low SES students. Section 38(6) further provides a loading for low socio-economic (quartile 2) students which again, theoretically, ranges from 7.5% to 47.5%, but which is limited to a maximum loading of 37.5%.

Amending the capacity to contribute percentage table in section 54 would help to ameliorate the truncation of this loading for low SES students attending low fee non-government schools. This is a crucial element underpinning choice of school for all parents regardless of family wealth and income, which has underpinned the proposed reforms arising from the Gonski review.



Secondly, such an amendment would provide greater consistency with wider government policy settings. Federal government policy initiatives regarding the provision of welfare transfer payments generally provide for higher income levels for payment as well as for higher payment amounts for secondary students as against primary school aged students. The current framing of the capacity to contribute table contained in section 54 suggests that parents of secondary school aged students have a greater capacity to contribute whereas this is unlikely to be the case.

I would be happy to expand on the comments contained in this submission at any time.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hamill
Director of Schools



**Proposed revised values in relation to s. 54 of the Australian Education Bill,
“Capacity to contribute percentage” (page 35)**

Following section three, we recommend that the values in *Column 3 Secondary School* be amended as proposed as follows:

SES	Column 3 Secondary School
93	10
94	10.29
95	10.57
96	10.86
97	11.14
98	11.43
99	11.71
100	12
101	13.5
102	16.5
103	19.5
104	22.5
105	25.5
106	28.5
107	31.5
108	34.5
109	37.5
110	40.5
111	44.43
112	46.72
113	49.01
114	51.30
115	53.59
116	55.88
117	58.18
118	60.47
119	62.76
120	65.05
121	68.04
122	71.03
123	74.02
124	77.01
125	80



Graphically this proposed amended is represented as follows:

