

Dear Mr Sullivan,

I write out of concern for several matters to do with the above Enquiry. Firstly, there are several inaccuracies in the information given by some of the Catholic authorities to the Senate Enquiry, as published in the Hansard record and other published submissions.

I would appreciate your bringing this information to the attention of the Senate committee on the assumption that the facts of the matter will assist their continued deliberation and decision-making.

First of all, ALL Catholic schools in New Zealand are integrated, not just 95 % of them.

Secondly, NONE of them charge fees but dues, that are exactly similar to those charged by other state schools in New Zealand.

Thirdly, the integration of Catholic and similar other schools within a broad framework of free education in New Zealand has NOT, as asserted by Mr Joe McCorley, limited the expansion of Catholic schools, but greatly assisted the deregulation and reform of schooling in NZ, where successful integrated providers, among whom the Catholics dominate the scene, have increased their market share, as have several highly successful state schools.

This information is detailed in my PhD thesis, which is itemised in the bibliography attached to my own Senate submission.

Secondly, it may also be useful to brief the Senate Committee that the divergent thinking within the Catholic sector, particularly in Queensland, relates to a statement made by Senator Kemp, when he was Education Minister, when he stated in his keynote address at the Australian Parents' Council Conference in Brisbane on September 5, 1997, that 'the intention of the Commonwealth in deregulating its school funding policy was not to privilege private schools but to give equal opportunity to those parents who could not afford to pay fees' (Conference Record).

To my subsequent question: 'Why not then fee-free independent schools?', Senator Kemp stated in public as follows: 'This is a very good idea; however, I think that some independent providers rather like the thought of charging fees' (Ibid). This statement was greeted with audible disapproval.

The tendering of this information may assist in explaining to some members of your Committee the lack of agreement in Catholic educational thinking as evidenced in their submissions and responses to the Committee. I am prepared to make myself available for the Committee to further investigate or clarify this or any other matter.

Since this matter concerns issues that are on the public record I request that this note be placed on the public record as an addendum to my own written submission.

Thirdly, I request that my title, as mentioned on the list of respondents to requests for submissions, be altered to 'Dr', as is the case with some of your other respondents, so as to correctly and appropriately reflect and adduce the context of my submissions and link them with my qualification. I would greatly appreciate your acknowledgement of this letter with an indication of what is proposed to be done with it.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Furtado