

Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education
References Committee

Inquiry into Commonwealth Funding for Schools

Submission no: 34

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Principal

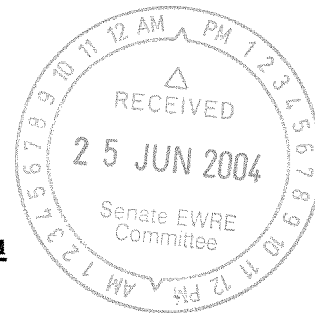
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Naracoorte Christian School

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Dear Sir,

Naracoorte Christian School is a Primary School situated in the rural setting of the Limestone Coast, SA. It offers education from Reception to Year 7. It was established in 1999. There are 53 students currently enrolled.

A student at our school receives \$6,113 of government funding (includes both state & federal) and \$1,840 is private funding.

Governments, both nationally and at state and territory level, have a responsibility to provide each Australian child - no matter what their family background or what school they attend - with a reasonable level of funding for their schooling. All school students deserve government support for their education irrespective of the school they attend.

Non-government schools are important providers of education for the children of Australia and should be recognised for their contribution to the economic wellbeing of the nation. Over one million students are currently enrolled in non-government schools. Non-government schools account for one-third of total school enrolments and some 37% of secondary enrolments. In all capital cities other than Darwin, non-government schools educate over 40% of secondary students.

Students attending non-government schools should be eligible for a reasonable basic level of funding by governments in support of their education. In addition, students with special needs who attend non-government schools should be able to access the same needs-based funding and government services available to students attending government-owned schools.

Parents who exercise their freedom of choice in schooling options for their children should not attract financial penalty. Parents should not be penalised for their willingness to spend money on their children's education.

The current system of allocating general recurrent grants for non-government schools from the Australian Government (the SES model) provides a reasonable measure of the capacity of school communities to contribute to the costs of schooling.

Australian government funding should be retained in its current form for the coming quadrennial period (2005 - 2008) to allow our families some certainty to plan for their financial commitments. Stability and certainty in funding is most important for our school's continued viability and ability to sustain quality in educational provision.

Anne Dolan

Principal

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