

Mr A T Kenos JP

8-JULY-04



Senator Can
Senate
Canberra 2600

Dear Senator

I wish to make a small submission to your inquiry.

The whole funding and resource issue is a serious one, with Catholic, small ethnic language schools and government schools getting nothing, compared to the VERY wealthy ultra private system.

This gross anomaly is to the detriment of the nation, entrenching the gap between the haves and have nots.

But then Dr Nelson (who did not have to find \$200K for his medical degree) and other Liberals have often argued against additional university places and for factory fodder.

They ignore the extremely limited finances of loving families who cannot afford Scotch College, King's Grammar, PEC and so forth. Or is it that they don't care.

Do they care about schools poaching from other schools, as noted in one newspaper this week? It is wider than public knowledge with some schools blatantly copying school magazines, stickers, newsletters... "holus bolus" to give a 'false' impression of who they really are, to secure higher student numbers, and money.

Some schools get money for literacy & numeracy, but - as with PEP and other monies in the past - spend it elsewhere!!!

Some schools seek integration students for the money, and that includes higher pay for principal class with higher student numbers. Yet little is comparatively spent on the kids.

Audits are manipulated by people, at school level, who know how to do so and education departments either do not ask questions or intentionally do not wish to know.

A full education does not necessarily stop at the attainment of a trade or the completion of a degree. And it is the right of all in a democratic society to pursue an education. Yet when politicians allow 25% increases in HECS fees (will that continue in 2005, 2006...?), higher text costs (since 1 July when the subsidy stopped), attack university access, give money disproportionately to schools, ignore the needy and fail to properly audit all monies, we all lose - students, family and nation.

Sincerely

A T Kenos (M.)

MACE, MA ITD