



Public submission made to the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools

Submitter: MCHF
Submitting as a: Principal
State: NSW

Summary

Schooling must provide a rounded approach to education that allows students to flourish in whatever school they choose.

Curriculum must cover as much as possible not only in Australian affairs but on a global scale and not be too limited or restricted.

Measurement of student success should not only be based on academic achievement

Religion, culture, values, respect, are important facets of a student's life and must be seen to be so.

IT, STEM are necessary in education.

Quality teachers are lacking

Main submission

Educational success is in all facets of a young person's life and not just academically. To prepare them for the future they should be taught at school skills in IT, writing and language skills and numeracy. They should have a curriculum that is all rounded and not narrowly focused. Global issues need to be addressed. Critical thinking needs to be encouraged. Furthermore, students need to understand the importance of leadership, relationships, values and culture.

Currently there is a large discrepancy on how the private and public schooling sectors are viewed. Educational institutions of all forms and shapes and sizes should be treated and funded fairly. Catholic and independent schools are often targeted by the media and by the Government for limited funding and the argument that Catholic schools should not be funded does more damage than good.

Parents have a right to choose which school they send their children too and so values taught and religious beliefs need to be seen as of value in education rather

than being eroded away by a secular culture that needs to realise a student's education needs to be wholistic.

To this end system enablers need to allow for a wide scope of subjects, measurement of success needs to be not only based on academic achievement but also ability to succeed in other aspects of schooling such as creative arts, sport, community service etc.

New emerging areas for action include

- change in jobs in the future means our students need to be more STEM and IT trained
- decreasing number of teachers (especially Primary) and quality of teachers which will have a negative impact on future student learning
- The move in Australia to debunk religion and traditional values and cultures and gender issues needs to be examined as this will have a negative impact on students and society when young people are brought up to be suspicious of religious values and cultures