

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House of Assembly - GAA](#)
Subject: A school community of care and compassion
Date: Monday, 22 July 2024 2:27:12 PM

Re: A school community of care and compassion

Dear Committee Secretary,

I was alarmed to hear of the high levels of bullying of Australian teenagers and especially in Tasmania. I sent my children to a Christian school in Launceston and now have all 12 of my grandchildren attending either this same school (9) or a sister school in Margate (3) and I am thankful that it has been and continues to be a safe space for my children and grandchildren to learn and grow. Christian schools strive to be communities of care and compassion because we strive to follow the example of Jesus. In my experience they work hard to address bullying and have a strong culture of care and compassion for all students. I am asking the Committee to ensure that Christian schools can continue to provide the caring, nurturing environment that I have chosen for my children and experienced first hand and for my grandchildren who now benefit from this same nurturing environment. For one of my children, my eldest daughter, who married a black African refugee and have 5 children, there have been numerous comments in the broader community, some misguided, some racist, some ignorant, but all quite hurtful about the colour of her children's skin, even though she has a fair complexion and long blonde hair. In the school setting where they attend, there has been a marked difference in how the multiculturalism is accepted, celebrated and is inclusive. We are thankful that these schools has been proactive in ensuring all children are treated with dignity and respect. Unfortunately situations do occur when other children and even parents can be insensitive and uncaring. What has been good is the intentionality of the teachers, the leadership and the other students and parents to support the students, regardless of their race, religion or gender differences and address this directly as a community of care. We have seen growth in acceptance of all members of the community and it continues to be a place where more parents are choosing to send their children as a result of this positive difference and influence.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lucella Bosker

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