

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House of Assembly - GAA](#)
Subject: A school community of care and compassion
Date: Thursday, 25 July 2024 8:21:13 AM

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 have sent my children to a Christian school and I am thankful that it has been a safe space for my children 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. I am also a teacher and have worked in Christian Schools for the past 8 years. In that time, I have seen countless children join my classrooms who have shocking and heartbreaking stories to tell of their experiences of bullying coming from other schools. By the time their parents have exhausted their efforts in getting any action from their previous school, a lot of damage has been done and we have to pick up the pieces. The students thankfully are usually grateful and relieved that they can just learn here. If our schools independent schools are not valued and support then I am scared to think about what will happen to the countless number of kids whose parents want their children to be free from the worries of bullying and just learn. What will their option be? We will see multitudes of parents pulling their children from state schools and homeschooling instead and we have already seen this for many who cannot afford the fees at private schools. Take this seriously because we are living it and so are the children. If you actually care then support choice and thank independent schools for the work they are doing to pick up the pieces of the kids who are falling through the cracks at government schools and changing the course of their lives and our communities. Sincerely, Melissa Cleaver

Sincerely,
Mrs. Melissa Cleaver

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