

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House of Assembly - GAA](#)
Subject: Sticks and Carrots
Date: Friday, 30 August 2024 11:14:23 AM

Dear Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools,

There is some irony to be found in an inquiry into bullying and discrimination when the inquiry itself is structured to force an outcome.

The unavoidable outcome of the stated terms of reference will lead to

- a reduction of personal freedoms;
- an increase of liability and restriction of educational facilities;
- an increase of liability for teaching professionals and their careers; and
- an increase in the use of the legal process as a weapon.

It is always disappointing when government says in it's own ToR that the outcome will be more legislation and regulation. Repealing legislation or reducing government interference is never an option apparently.

If there are indeed problems with the AntiDiscrimination Act (and there are) then an inquiry into the Act would have been a more genuine approach.

When it comes to tampering with schools and education in the 21st century we should be seeking reforms that modify behaviour in a positive manner rather than a punitive and legalistic way.

Whatever reform the 'victims' of discrimination and bullying may be seeking, it will not come about from forcing change and imposing penalties on educational service providers, their staff or parents.

History is well stocked with examples of how government 'reforms' and involvement has had a negative effect, often driving the problem deeper into society rather than curing it with sunshine and transparency.

The recommendations of this inquiry should foster a 'Life Be In It' approach to fostering change instead of creating another bookshelf of legalisation and court proceedings.

Awareness campaigns and positivity strategies will be faster and more effective than having more laws.

A genuine improvement in quality of life for the students the inquiry claims to be acting on behalf of is actually the deliverable.

Sincerely,
Stuart Greig

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