



FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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7 March 2008

Ms Madeline Foley
Principal Council Officer
Legislative Council Committees
Parliament house
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Foley

Inquiry into the prohibition on the publication of names of children involved in criminal proceedings

Please find enclosed the corrected transcript and the Witness Feedback Questionnaire.

Following is a response to the questions on notice. These are extracts from the Federation's policy, which is adopted at Annual Conference by a majority vote of delegates:

C: FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

PREMISE 1C

Education should be free of all forms of sexual, religious and racial discrimination, as well as discrimination on the basis of disabilities or socio-economic circumstances. This lack of discrimination should be clearly reflected in school organisation, teaching programs and materials, and interpersonal relationships within the school community.

D: STUDENTS' RIGHTS

PREMISE 1D

Students in government schools have rights as well as responsibilities. Legislation to provide for the Rights of Students, as set out below, should be introduced.

POLICY

1.9 Students' rights include the following:

- (a) the right to teaching programs which individualise education and promote learning to enable students to develop the basic competencies of literacy, numeracy and reasoning skills and to pursue excellence throughout the curriculum they study;
- (b) the right to teaching programs and support services which enhance personal, social, emotional and educational growth and engender self-esteem and self-motivation;
- (c) the right to a curriculum which relates to each individual's social, linguistic and cultural needs;
- (d) the right to psychological counselling, diagnostic testing and early remedial services in schools;
- (e) the right to career counselling and work experience programs integrated in the curriculum, at least from Year 7, to facilitate appropriate occupational choice;
- (f) the right for early leavers to re-enter school without restriction;
- (g) the right to school policy and organisation which encourage respect for students as individuals;
- (h) the right to the fullest possible information about school teaching programs, intended outcomes and course content to enable, among other things, informed choice of courses to be made;
- (i) the right to information on the relationship between the educational program and life choices;
- (j) the right to be involved in decision-making and to progressively take greater responsibility for decisions;
- (k) the right to feel physically safe and emotionally secure;
- (l) the absolute right to parent or guardian representation during interviews by police or other authorities while on school property; and
- (m) the right to appeal against the results of assessments, including Higher School Certificate results, on the grounds of educational disadvantage (in both Years 11 and 12 where HSC results are concerned).

1.11 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, proclaimed by the United Nations' General Assembly in November 1989, should be adopted in principle by the Federal Government.

F: PARENTS' RIGHTS

PREMISE 1F

Parents and guardians have rights with respect to the education of their children in government schools. Legislation to provide for the Rights of Parents as set out below should be introduced. In addition, it is the right of children and their parents or guardians to jointly make educational choices as to the type of education they want and the type of school the children attend. Parent

participation is the most effective method of ensuring individual needs of students are addressed.

POLICY

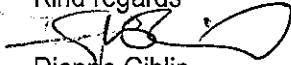
1.13 Parents' and guardians' rights include the following:

- (a) the right to choice among schools in their community for their children's education;
- (b) the absolute right to have their child educated at their local school;
- (c) the right to apply for enrolment and have that application fairly dealt with, at any government school that, having satisfied local demand, seeks further enrolments;
- (d) the right of access to the Principal, teachers and other professional staff involved in the education and welfare of their children;
- (e) the right to regular, informative reports on their children's progress and to consequent discussions with those responsible for the reports;
- (f) the right to participate in making policy and rules in the schools their children attend;
- (g) the right to express, and to have seriously considered, a viewpoint on any educational experience organised by the school which affects their children's educational or social development;
- (h) the right to be consulted whenever any major change in educational practices or programs is proposed for their children;
- (i) the right to prohibit the administration of corporal punishment to their children within any government school;
- (j) the right to be consulted before suspension of their children from school;
- (k) the right, through representative parent organisations, to be informed in advance about all proposed new or amended legislation and regulations which will affect their children's education, and to be consulted about such matters in appropriate ways;
- (l) the right to inspect their children's cumulative records and draw attention to any errors of fact, and the right to request a review by the Director-General when agreement cannot be reached;
- (m) the right to information and participation in discussions about any psychological, psychiatric or medical assessment and/or treatment of their children;
- (n) the absolute right to be present, with legal representation, during interviews of their children at school by police or other authorities; and
- (o) the right to nominate a parent-approved surrogate.

Following off from all policy, the Councillors, Executive Committee and Office-Bearers work to promote and advocate these policies in the specific applications as they arise. This submission was derived from the above policies, was commissioned and approved by myself as President, and was presented to the Executive Committee.

I hope this satisfactorily answers the questions. If you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0404 802 637 or president@pandc.org.au.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dianne Giblin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dianne Giblin
President