

**Submission
No 2**

INQUIRY INTO THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF TEACHERS

Organisation:

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Theme:

Summary

Inquiry into Education Staffing
Social Issues Committee

The Legislative Council

31/12/2004.

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney
Dear Sirs / Mesdames,

Teaching Blunders

In the last decade of the 20th century eight remarkable books were published which could be called "The Great Blunder Books" (see references) since they described the consequences of many colossal blunders, ancient and modern.

If humans are to learn by mistakes they must first admit them. If they don't do this then there is no chance of them abandoning the disastrous paths and taking new ones.

As we all know, good leadership listens to advice, knows the way and shows the way.

No completely mistake-free leadership ever existed.

But when leaders refuse to accept criticism they stumble into fatal blundering. History shows this.

Alexander the Great is regarded as the greatest military leader. At first he took advice even from an ignorant shepherd boy. At the end of his career he would not listen even to his closest friends.

He blundered and failed. - as did Henry V, Douglas Haig, Lloyd George, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin etc etc.

It seems that the teaching profession has become the victim of all the fashionable experiments that make up Post-Modernism - an "agents-for-charge agenda."

These experimental fads have one common fatal feature - an incapacity to admit and abandon blunders.

Instead the built in response is to introduce more blundering change while maintaining the failed fad or fads intact.

Is it any wonder many teachers are leaving the profession? The cause is insecurity - fear of the future and injury. (Kainophobia and algophobia) and a loss of confidence in a blundering leadership.

Science is based on truth tested by experiment. If the experiment fails in repetition the hypothesis is abandoned. If it succeeds, the truth is established.

A whole range of strange social ideas have been forced onto teachers. They are open ended cumulative and firmly entrenched, despite the often disastrous consequences.

To give just two examples -

1. The abandonment of corporal punishment (as a last and rarely used resort)
2. The disappearance of male role models.

In a classic case of cause and effect - by the "broken window effect" - female teachers now believe themselves to be in grave physical danger. Why cannot this blundering be admitted?

It appears that men are opting out of teaching.

Could the cause be a nasty brew of affirmative action, "political" correctness and the fear of false accusations. Do female teachers want a complete absence of a male presence in school? Are they universally happy with female bosses?

Although being "post modern" means never saying that one has "blundered" there will come a time when the whole menu of outworn 1970's ideas will be revisited and ejected from education:

Civil libertarianism

deconstructionism

neuroicism

Gramsciism

political correctnessism

environmental activism

open door borderism

animal and vegetable liberation

values free morality

compensation mania

anti judgementalism

Co education

To name just a few.

If this inquiry just admits that the hemorrhaging of teacher numbers could be the result of blunders by "agents-of-change" it would be a fine start.

Yours sincerely

Kevin M. Manus

References

"Alexander the Great's Art of Strategy"
by Partha Bose 2004.

"The Guinness Books of Blunders" by Geoffrey Regan
Military Blunders 1991
More Military Blunders 1993
Naval Blunders 1993
Historical Blunders 1994
Royal Blunders 1995.

"Military Intelligence Blunders" 1999
by Col. John Hughes Wilson

"Business Blunders" 1999
by Geoff. Tibbals

"Legal Blunders" 2000
by Geoff Tibbals

yet to come -

"Education Blunders" 200?