

### Letter to The Parents' Website:

I have often wondered why in these times where means testing is gradually being introduced to so many areas the government does not consider it appropriate for the families in the state school system to be means tested.

We as a family have decided to utilise the private school system and sacrificed in other areas as we believe the state school system should be available for those families who can simply not afford private schooling.

It does become frustrating when so many families are taking advantage of the free-state system, increasing the class numbers and putting extra demands on the system when the family can clearly afford a private education for their children.

It is about time that the government applied the means testing to the families in the state system so that those families who can afford a fee paying school pay fees for the service even if they continue in the state system. This would assist the government in providing better funding and resources for those needy children in the state school system.

How can this be suggested to those who make the rules?

Sincerely

Amanda

### Response by Michelle Green, Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria:

Dear Amanda

Research that the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria has conducted confirms your observation that there is a substantial proportion of students from high-income families in government schools. In fact, evidence given to a Parliamentary inquiry some years ago highlighted that more children from well-off families attended government schools than nongovernment schools.

You ask how you can suggest that those who make the rules consider means-testing parents who send their children to government schools. Members of Parliament make the rules so why not write to your local federal MP asking him or her to raise the suggestion with the Minister for Education? You could write directly to the Minister, Ms Gillard, but it would probably be more effective to go through your local member. You can also ask for an appointment with your MP to put your argument personally.


If you are not sure which is your federal electorate and the name of your MP, the Australian Electoral Commission website <http://apps.aec.gov.au/eseach/> has an easy-to-use search facility based on your postcode.

Members of the House of Representatives are listed by electorate on the Parliament of Australia website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/mi-elctr.asp> and Senators can be found at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/senators/homepages/index.asp?%20/>.

We look forward to learning the response from your Member of Parliament.

We are very encouraged to be reminded once again that parents of children at independent schools are thinking long and hard about improving ways of funding education for the benefit of all children, whether or not they attend government or non-government schools.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Green  
Chief Executive