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Submission 20

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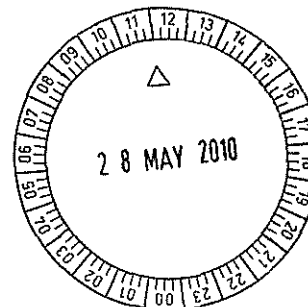
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May 28, 2010

Renae Jewell
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Legislative Council
Parliament House, Perth 6000



Dear Renae,

I am writing to you with regards to the Government's decision to cease funding for year 11 and 12 across rural Western Australia. I reside in Jurien Bay, a coastal town that I've personally seen growing each year and with the completion of Indian Ocean Drive nearly complete know that our town is going to double in size in a very short period of time. As a parent, businessman and a President of our local football club, I am totally flabbergasted by the decision making of our Education Minister. Education, health and law enforcement must surely be the major driving forces behind a community that wishes to grow and prosper. Surely when decisions such as important as this one is made that the Minister should make proper consultation with all Community groups and most importantly, the families that reside in these country towns, as we are the ones keeping these towns alive.

As a parent I am absolutely disgusted by their rationale behind their decision. I have a 6yr old boy attending Primary school here and was hoping that a TEE program would be in place in the very near future, however the Government seems intent of sending our education program spiraling in the opposite direction. We don't want to see a mass exodus of families from our communities just because there wouldn't be a year 11 and 12 program available not just to our local children but also from the farming communities. Surely we have to liase with love our children after school each day. Families should not have to be emotionally and financially burdened just because they live in rural areas. (This was a selling point for The Hon Brendon Grills in his last election campaign) and that's why we voted for the coalition. Unless this decision is reversed I know there will be a big swing to Labor at the next election from Jurien Bay I can tell you.

As a business proprietor who employs 9 staff, I am equally disappointed with this decision. JBDHS vocation education program has been nothing short of excellent for a number of years now with the school's students taking out numerous awards..Also through their workplace learning program I have given 2 year 11 boys an apprenticeship in our industry and know of numerous other businesses who have done the same thing. We want to give our local children every opportunity of employment and residential status as these are the most important reasons why families live and prosper in these areas. As business proprietors we want to continue to offer these opportunities and would despise to see them lost through a stupid, shortsighted and irrational decision.

As a President of our local football club and committee member of our Community centre, I'm getting extremely frustrated. As the only way our town can keep all of our sporting clubs alive is

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by retaining the numbers of children involved because we have excellent numbers through primary school years only to see these drop off as they start attending TEE in Perth and other areas. To axe funding for year 11 and 12 would be devastating to our town and the Minister should be having serious consultation with our community in working towards Improving our education system and not trying to destroy it through a totally irrational and unfounded decision. As everyone is totally aware, sport is an extremely important part of our upbringing and Jurien Bay not only wants to promote it but also see it grow and prosper .

In closing I sincerely hope that your investigation by The Standing Committee can persuade the Minister and the Government to reverse this decision and in the future think very carefully about the impact that this would have on our community.

I look forward to your result from this enquiry.

Your's sincerely,

Mark Bellemore

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