

**AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT
SCHOOLS
PRESS RELEASE 854**

**THE SIREN SONG OF INTEGRATED PRIVATE SCHOOLS :
BUT - CAN PRIVATE EVER BE PUBLIC?**

The business model of the private sector has come under strain; gross inequities resulting from public funding of private schools are exposed by catastrophes – witness the current plague.

Consider the very basic recurrent funds 2018 information from the MYSCHOOL website for just a few Victorian schools. These figures illustrate a system for children of an oligarchy, not a democracy.

RECURRENT FUNDING OF SELECT VICTORIAN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	ICSEA value						\$
	Index of			2018			Per
SCHOOL	community		State	Fed- eral	pri- vate	Total	Stu- dent
	socio-eco- nomic		\$ mil- lion	\$mil- lion	\$mil- lion	\$mil- lion	
	advantage						
Geelong Grammar	1152	Corio	1.001	6.981	30.887	40.972	27,948
Scotch	1191	Hawthorn	1.336	5.288	58	65	31,666
Wesley	1159	Prahran	2.221	11.393	99.123	115.51	31,597
Xavier	1179	Kew	1.091	6.981	30.887	38.959	26,473
Haileybury	1179	Keysborough	3.757	24.688	93036	127	30,130
Ivanhoe Grammar	1145	Ivanhoe	1.428	11.498	52.369	87	37,738
Acquinas	1065	Ringwood	3.843	15.001	11.366	30.888	30,888
De La Salle	1114	Malvern	2.006	7.702	12.139	22.519	20,196
Kilbreda	1060	Mentone	2.019	7.922	5.734	16.062	17,197
Parade College	1059	Bundoora	4.537	18.368	12.849	29.763	16,098
Simonds College	1015	West Melb.	1.4672	5.167	1.314	7.988	18,363

College							
Al Noor Muslim College	1024	Greenacre	4.363	15.121	4.938	25.317	13,933

University High School	1132	Parkville	14.156	3.267	1.452	19.88	13.837
Melbourne High School	1168	Sth Yarra	12.605	2.982	4.426	21.355	15,753
Whittlesea Secondary College	956	Whittlesea	2.034	8.696	0.245	11.285	11,700
Hoppers Crossing Secondary	968	Hoppers Xing	16279	3.803	0.491	20657	14,043

As demands for ever greater public funding of failing and flailing private schools hit the Treasury, the siren sound of an integrated public/private system is heard.

What does this mean? It means fully funding the recurrent costs of non-government i.e. private schools which then cannot charge fees and are expected to have an open enrolment policy. Accountability for public money would also be expected, although the administration and ownership of funds and property would be the preserve of private systems.

Such schools would be public in access, and input only. **The ownership and control of such schools would still be private.** The taxpayers would continue to enrich private, often religious, corporations. And, given the track record of private systems in the past, according to the Auditor Generals at both federal and State levels, accountability would still be an issue.

Professor Piccoli of the Gonski Institute at the University of New South Wales is singing the current song from the integration hymn sheet. On August 11, 2020.

DOGS note that the denominational system failed in the nineteenth century and it is failing our children in the twenty first century. Full stop.

Look at the current level of inequity evident on the MYSCHOOL website for just a small sample of schools in Melbourne:

DOGS suggest that Piccoli is well meaning but mistaken. The Catholic system has thousands of years experience in the art of dissembling. Such a multinational corporation alongside almost other religious systems, will never give up control and ownership of property, let alone accountability, for public money. The only system that can offer equity, accountability and public ownership and control is a public system.

The time has come to just take over the schools that go bankrupt without both fees and public funding and make them genuinely public schools. Our children are safest with a proven public system, not private-public quangos. .

LISTEN TO THE DOGS PROGRAM

855 ON THE AM DIAL: 12.00 NOON SATURDAYS

<http://www.3cr.org.au/dogs>