National Catholic Education Commission

The Australian Greens policy on education – Catholic schools

The information below is taken from a letter written to NCEC on behalf of Senator Hanson-Young on 23 June 2010, and from The Greens’ website http://greens.org.au/policies/care-for-people/education

1. The Greens believe that the government should prioritise the public education system as the cornerstone of our education system.

   Outcome: proportionately more funding for government schools, less for nongovernment schools.

2. The Greens would end the present Commonwealth funding arrangement for recurrent funding to Catholic schools by the end of 2010 and return funding levels to Catholic schools to 2003/2004 levels, resulting in an immediate reduction of $427 million per year.

   Outcome: significantly increased school fees, staffing cuts and increased class sizes.

3. The Greens would deny parents the right, currently protected by Commonwealth and State law, to choose a school which is conducted in accordance with explicit Catholic values and goals.

   Outcome: restricted parent choice; a uniformity of schooling provision.

4. The Greens would make it impossible for Catholic schools to advertise for staff who were willing to support the Catholic ethos of the school, or to set enrolment priorities.

   Outcome: Catholic schools would find it increasingly difficult to be Catholic.

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