

We The People
Program 11
Good Education.



As a father of 4 adult children I believe I have the right to talk about what makes for a good education. Most Australians have a view on education and will express it freely. However the teaching fraternity is not listening. They view 'we the people' as not able to understand the rigors of curriculum or the complexities of the class room and so they demonstrate an air of artificial superiority. It is this complete inability to listen that has contributed to our chaotic education system which is letting us down.

What is a good education. At first pass it seems simple enough and yet it's been made so very complex largely by the academics that neither sow nor reap. They have created a kind of power base or kingdom using the false notion that they are in charge of our kids' education and therefore their future. They just turn our kids into political and emotional hostages and build an army of doting mothers to unwittingly support them. This system we have now has brought our young people to their knees as rates of numeracy and literacy keep falling. If the educators are in fact our salvation why is it they can't teach children to read and write proficiently. Without that basic ability our children are doomed to a life of servitude and struggle. Years ago we would sit and chant our multiplication tables until we could instantly calculate an answer. I remember them well because I use them daily in one form or another as quick arithmetic and they are aerobics for the brain and the fruit of a quick mind. We did the same with spelling and grammar and it worked and worked well. So why are we now caught up in an overly complex ineffective education system.

In Queensland less than 30 percent of students will go to university. Rather, they train as apprentices and achieve worthwhile diplomas at TAFE. They are the people we meet every day and are good people with productive lives. However, go to any Principal and ask how the school is doing and they will immediately tell you how many OP1's they achieved the previous year. That underpins the notion that schools are often places where sanitised snobbery is the under cult and if you are not a good academic they relegate you to some other so called education pathway. That's not real and not right. A good education teaches people to think and provide the basic tools they need for life. An education is also the development of the spirit because a Godless society has neither real standards nor a sense of humility or greater purpose. A well rounded education should equip young people to reason and to function at home and work in a society where morality is paramount.

To improve matters let's start with a national standard curriculum that gets back to basics. The less fortunate kids should be sent to the best schools so as to break the cycle of defeat. I look to the past for inspiration when common sense was common and the words of Thomas Sowell spring to mind. ["Much of the social history of the western world over the past three decades has involved replacing what worked with what sounded good."](#)

Until next time this is Kent Bayley