

## **We The People**

Program 16

Teachers and affordability



A sensitive issue today for this narrative and I expect to be roundly criticised for even having the audacity to comment. Nonetheless the debate needs to be opened up on this topic and so why not right now. I believe there is a need to completely overhaul the teaching fraternity, how they operate and the cost of keeping the pedagogy happy even though the education system is failing badly. For the record the word pedagogy relates to learning and comes from the Greek which means “to lead the child”. The reason I say its sensitive is because it’s an emotional issue and a political minefield but it doesn’t stack up anymore. It’s been engineered by the teachers union to be unassailable.

Let’s start with funding and get that out of the road. Funding comes from State and Federal governments and so let’s combine them to keep it really simple and straight forward. A student in the public system costs the government \$10,292 each year and just \$4,595 or less than half in the private system. So that ends the debate on the funding issue and clearly it’s much cheaper on the government coffers to have the private education system teach little Johnny and Jill. I realise that parents also pay private fees for a better outcome and the like but we need both systems. As a matter of interest remote indigenous schools receive \$33,000 per year per student and numeracy and literacy rates are falling.

It is clear to me that young people leaving school are pretty poor in terms of literacy and numeracy or the three R’s as we used to call it, being reading, writing and arithmetic. That means the ability to be able to read and write and use maths day to day in general life and communication. Years ago we had to chant our times tables until we memorised them and it worked a treat so why not now. Well the academics keep coming up with new ways of teaching in my view to keep the whole thing shrouded in mystery while they build their empire and hold doting mothers hostage in the name of their children. Granted, the curriculum is overcrowded but again it’s because the more complex they make it the more unassailable they are. Teachers get this amazing thing called pupil free days which by any measure is a complete nonsense when you take into account they also get up to 3 months holiday a year on full pay. Their hourly rate is ridiculously high and quite unaffordable and when teachers claim they work after hours I say then let them do that at the school and report it just like the rest of us do in our work place.

The massive amount of time teachers have off could be used to tutor kids who are struggling and as long as they get 4 weeks annual leave I see no reason why teachers should enjoy longer holidays than the rest of society. No doubt they will claim it’s stressful but so are many, many other jobs let alone people who work shift work through the night. Teachers also claim they need time for self education and professional development. Fine then take the initiative and do what the rest of us do and make some sacrifices. The teaching fraternity have been on the gravy train for far too long and have done a sterling job of keeping their snouts in the trough at the tax payers’ expense. It’s no longer affordable and doesn’t stack up when compared to so many other folk who enjoy far less privileges in their jobs which are just as important. Now in the words of Mark Twain 1860...”I have never let my schooling interfere with my education” Smart man.

Until next time this is kent Bayley