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COMMONWEALTH NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FUNDING
POLICIES AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION IN AUSTRALIA

by

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ABSTRACT

This thesis traces the efforts of successive Australian Commonwealth governments from Menzies to Howard to influence school education through its funding policies. It focuses on the means by which allocational programs were decided, funding mechanisms were chosen, and the processes of issues emergence, authorisation, implementation and administration were developed. The major focus is on the funding policies for non-government schools and the major means by which successive governments sought to manage conflict over the issue.

This work argues that no one single paradigm is capable of explaining the complex political processes of the last thirty five years. A corollary of social pluralism has been ideological diversity. Commonwealth governments since 1963 have appealed to a variety of political and social theories and discourses to unify the plurality of viewpoints and to transcend the particularism of sectional viewpoints. The period has been characterised by the pragmatic use of the political process and its attendant mechanisms to sublimate discord and permit successive governments to promote their own vision of a just society and seek their own political advantage. Each of the solutions has not survived the government's term of office without modification.

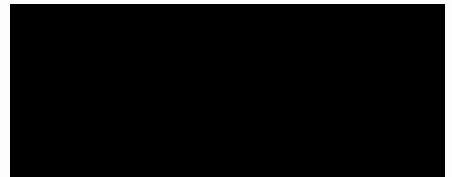
A number of perennial themes are identified. These include: the implications for policymaking of an increasingly diverse Australian society; the range of competing ideological approaches; Commonwealth-state relations; the availability of budgeted funding; the impact of public sector management reforms; the roles of industrial and other pressure groups; and the continuing attempt to manage political conflict.

In the final chapter consideration is given to the nature and feasibility of current suggestions to break down the sharp divisions between government and non-government schooling and the significance of these proposals for future management of conflict between proponents of these two types of schools.

DECLARATION

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree or qualification.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.

Grant Maple

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

AACS	Australian Association of Christian Schools
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACE	Australian College of Education
ACER	Australian Council for Educational Research
ACSSO	Australian Council of State School Organisations
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
AEC	Australian Education Council
AEU	Australian Education Union
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service
AHISA	Association of Heads of Independent Schools in Australia
AIS	Association of Independent Schools
ALP	Australian Labor Party
ANZAAS	Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science
APC	Australian Parents Council
ASC	Australian Schools Commission
ATF	Australian Teachers Federation
AUC	Australian Universities Commission
CCS	Christian Community Schools
CEC	Catholic Education Commission
CPCS	Association of Christian Parent Controlled Schools
CP	Country Party
CPD	Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates

CSC	Commonwealth Schools Commission (see SC)
DEET	Department of Employment, Education and Training
DEETYA	Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
DLP	Democratic Labor Party
DOGS	(Council for the) Defence of Government Schools
EBA	Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment
EPAC	Economic Planning Advisory Council (Australia)
ERI	Education Resources Index
HMC	Headmasters Conference
H of R	House of Representatives
IC	Interim Committee of the Australian Schools Commission
LCP	Liberal/Country Party Coalition (governments)
LNP	Liberal/National Party Coalition (governments)
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council of Employment, Education, Training & Youth Affairs
MOVEET	Ministers of Vocational Education, Employment and Training
NBEET	National Board of Employment, Education and Training
NCEC	National Catholic Education Commission
NCIS	National Council of Independent Schools
NSP	New Schools Policy
NSW	New South Wales
NSWPC	New South Wales Parents Council
NSWTF	New South Wales Teachers Federation
NT	Northern Territory
NTB	National Training Board
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

QERC	Quality of Education Review Committee
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SC	Schools Commission (before 1987) Schools Council of NBEET (after 1987)
SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
Sen	Senate
<i>SMH</i>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (newspaper)
SPI	Schools Price Index
SRRI	Schools Recurrent Resources Index
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
Tas	Tasmania
UN	United Nations
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia