

00:18:24 Sumithri (Australia Institute): Hi all - Sumithri from The Australia Institute here, joining from Ngannawal and Ngambri Country. Thanks for joining us today. Looking forward to a great webinar!

A little reminder, the chat has options for 'all panellists' or 'all panellists and attendees'. Choose the latter option to participate in the chat with everyone.

Also, use the Q&A function to submit questions for the panel to answer live!

00:24:26 Ebony Bennett: The chat is now live!

00:25:32 Pamela Collett: How can we have equity when private schools receive more funding than public? Why should private schools receive ANY government funding?

00:25:52 David Zyngier: Hi everyone especially Pasi and Coreena. Can we have equity of outcomes without having equity of inputs?

00:25:57 Meredith Doig: Can I ask Pasi whether the relative homogeneity of Finland contributes to equitable educational outcomes?

00:26:28 Sumithri (Australia Institute): Just a reminder to use the Q&A function in zoom to submit questions for the panel to answer live. Thanks!

00:28:15 Pamela Collett: Equity and quality in education are the foundation for democracy and human rights

00:29:45 Pamela Collett: There can be no equity with government funding for private schools

00:33:47 Tim Macnaught: even if the small percentage of private education costs contributed by the state was removed, parents will continue to pour their own resources into good schools until the state massively increases resources to public education to provide something nearly as good.

00:34:37 Pamela Collett: Public education can and should provide quality education for all with proper resources. We need to change the narrative. Private does NOT equal quality

00:34:40 Damian Crowe: I went to a public High School in a rural community. It was one of the top schools in Victoria at the time in both the public and private sectors.

00:35:49 Damian Crowe: Everyone in the town knew the principle of the high school had a deal with the principle of the local technical school. She would keep an eye on everyone, and by year 8 she'd have made her decision on whether you were an academic or a tradesperson

00:36:10 john canning: I went to 7 schools public and private and they are all as bad or as good as each other.

00:36:59 Damian Crowe: Helsinki has huge community gardens. I spent some time there doing some work for Nokia

00:37:36 john canning: Do they grow communal weed Damian? I remember Christiania in Copenhagen....

00:37:38 jennifer manson: It's all about funding for need, as Gonski said.

- 00:37:50 Martin Connolly: Sooner or later, this talk will turn to resources and govt funding. I'd like to register the fact that Australia has a fiat currency (not tied to gold etc or other currencies) and the federal govt can go into, and remain in, deficits without ever 'paying it back'. General acknowledgement of this would allow federal govt to provide a lot more funding to education at all levels. One example - many decision-makers today had free university education; now students are crippled with debt. Economics hasn't changed, just the politics. Since the 70s-80s, neoliberal economic has been rammed down our throats - this MUST change!
- 00:38:19 jennifer manson: No investment in education -> declining economy over time.
- 00:38:50 Pamela Collett: Agree with Martin. inequality, poverty over resourcing of private schools is a POLICY not based on resources
- 00:38:53 Jennifer Hortin: Funding for education is an investment in our society's future.
- 00:39:31 Damian Crowe: When you say, there needs to be stronger equity ... do you mean equity in education, or equity in life opportunities? There is a problem in Australia with (e.g.) a failure to recognise Aboriginal people's economic interests in water rights. It is possible to be a very successful farmer with a very hands on style of education and training. So, is there a possibility that equity in opportunities after education should be a much stronger driver of the focus for education?
- 00:39:34 Pamela Collett: YES an entirely public system of education. YES YES YES
- 00:39:43 jennifer manson: We still have high youth unemployment and a skills shortage due to poor focus on education. Importing people is not the answer.
- 00:40:24 Damian Crowe: I didn't see communal weed in Helsinki. More vodka. However, the point about Christiania is a good one. Because it is a reflection of the underlying culture of "community"
- 00:40:35 john canning: Public at least undoes a lot of the cluster mentality of the private schools, especially religious ones which creates permanent schisms in society between groups
- 00:40:40 Damian Crowe: In Copenhagen, they even had a rule for people who wanted no rules
- 00:41:19 john canning: yes true there were a lot of rules.... even anarchy had rules
- 00:41:24 Damian Crowe: An atheist is just as likely to be a driver of schisms. Overcoming schisms requires an all around commitment to finding common ground
- 00:41:25 Denis Hay: It is way past the time that our federal government publically acknowledge we operate under a fiat currency and they are not financially constrained.
- 00:41:29 Martin Connolly: Funding of private schools in Australia is a vote-buying exercise. That is why govts are afraid to change it (cf "Sports Rorts")
- 00:41:45 Valerie Boshier: Hello Val Boshier from Tocumwal NSW Yorta Yorta country!
- 00:41:56 john canning: I don't support atheists either as they are religious zealots in the absence of something...
- 00:41:57 Martin Connolly: What Denis Hay said!

00:42:22 john canning: school should be free of all that

00:42:27 Pamela Collett: Private education is about elitism and exclusion, NOT religion

00:42:40 john canning: hmmm not at the schools I went to Pam!

00:42:56 Damian Crowe: But hey, no-one responded to my point about Aboriginal water rights ...

00:42:56 john canning: elitism is centred around Christianity

00:43:02 Jennifer Hortin: All schools are different now John.

00:43:07 Damian Crowe: Capacity building partnerships with farmers could be an awesome educational opportunity

00:43:14 Damian Crowe: Apprenticeships

00:43:15 john canning: yes isn't that the problem Jen?

00:43:19 Pamela Collett: Perhaps but elitism is more about class than religion

00:43:23 jennifer manson: Absolutely Pamela for many private schools they actually promote themselves as elitist. Its part of their marketing.

00:43:55 john canning: class, caste, elitism all the same in the end... just ask the masons

00:44:18 Jannene Kyytsonen: Here in Australia it is a societal approach that causes problems. Parents and students seeking an advantage over others. They are advancing themselves for self interest and not community as whole.

00:44:47 jennifer manson: Private schools say they're exclusive (not inclusive) and that's in the attitudes or teaching with many kids with special needs being ignored or pushed out of the most exclusive schools.

00:45:32 john canning: some public schools are elitist as well... framed around excellence... and suburbs even

00:45:53 Damian Crowe: My primary school teacher, from when I was at primary school 40 years ago, is still a teacher at the same school. St Mary's Primary School. She's now co-headmistress

00:45:59 jennifer manson: Agreed John. Saw that at Turramurra High in Sydney.

00:46:15 Damian Crowe: It's her party trick. She can remember the rooms where she taught her students

00:46:22 john canning: nice suburb turramurra though!

00:47:22 jennifer manson: John, not for kids who're not wealthy. My kids were unable to go to Switzerland for their holidays and felt not good enough, despite a public school.

00:47:22 Damian Crowe: Finland could advise on the set up of a trust for sharing water resources between farmers and Aboriginal people

00:48:22 john canning: that's not good Jen! Switzerland is pretty up market trip for most kids so I can see snob-alert alarm going off!!

00:48:32      jennifer manson:      Yes Pasi. Seeing great things at my grandkids school for these special needs kids.

00:49:07      Jannene Kyytsonen:      Pasi's response underscored the essence of a major cultural difference, the ability to be open to new ideas and different perspectives is normal in Finland

00:49:22      jennifer manson:      So much depends on the principal's view of what's important as they pass that onto the teachers.

00:49:28      Tim Macnaught:      During Covid in parts of Melbourne public school students ill served by the meagre or low quality online efforts of their teachers borrowed the logins of private school friends whose teachers put much more effort into quality online experiences .Perhaps It would enhance equity if private schools shared some of their curriculum material and lessons pro bono for the many public school students lacking good instruction especially in STEM.

00:49:56      john canning:      In Australia money seems to be the lubricant - we have a lot of poverty of the mind even if our pockets are overflowing with crypto coins...

00:50:02      Patrick Devery: Any failures of our education system are a reflection of the failures of our nation - look at yesterday's closing the gap report

00:50:22      Jennifer Hortin: Disagree Tim. Sweeping generalisations.

00:50:40      Liz Glab:      I agree with Martin Connolly that Australia has a fiat currency, so debt is not in and of itself a problem. However, seeing that government funding of private schools is so entrenched, how best can we frame and campaign for more sanity in funding?

00:50:53      Stephen Dunn: Bit hard to do online education when the home is not equipped / able to understand the needs for online education

00:51:23      john canning:      agree Patrick

00:52:30      john canning:      electrostimulation has been shown to accelerate catch up of US navy personnel to perform better on IQ tests so all is not lost...!

00:52:31      Valerie Boshier: Did someone mention Child Centred Education! As a Scottish trained teacher that was how we were trained!! Aus specializes in top down Administration centered Education!! Tick the box! It is only kept going by dedicated staff who are brilliant and put kids first regardless of the onerous tasks imposed on them by the Dept.of Education!1

00:53:02      rod sayers:      How do we achieve 'teacher understanding' of each student's learning needs?

00:53:05      Martin Connolly:      @Liz Glab - freeze the private education funding and raise the public funding for a few years to the Gonski model?

00:53:09      Kate El Idrissi: They have only been in office for 7 months - it's not like you're talking about the LNP...

00:53:12      Melissa Hoile:      Unfair to assume low effort from teachers Tim. The private school I work in had amazing support from a dedicated IT and AV departments. My public school colleagues had so little support in comparison and made an incredible effort to deliver despite the lack of resources.

00:53:16      jennifer manson:      Yes Pasi. The assumption that kids have skills across the board, instead of unevenly distributed as with ADHD, autism, SLDs misses the point.

00:53:17      Stephen Dunn: It would free up teaching time if parents reverted to being responsible for "extra curricular" activities that have been foisted onto the schools

00:53:58      jennifer manson:      But Steven, that would leave out the kids who have parents without the skills or time to do that.

00:54:45      john canning:      Education is really a community concern

00:54:53      Damian Crowe: I already did. But it seems some of the local movers and shakers are invested in an unconstitutional status quo

00:55:00      Damian Crowe: Re water rights.

00:55:01      Stephen Dunn: maybe, but if society wants these additional activities, supply the resources and time.

00:55:10      jennifer manson:      Intergenerational disadvantage is the result of leaving education to the parents.

00:55:12      David Zyngier: Everyone is invited to join the Public Education Network  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/134951450492088>

00:55:26      john canning:      you can learn everywhere even on the beach...

00:55:48      Jannene Kyytsonen:      Terve Pasi, hyvaa joulua !

00:55:51      john canning:      I agree Jen about intergenerational passage

00:56:28      Jonathon Guy: Join the Fair Funding Now! campaign  
<https://www.fairfundingnow.org.au/>

00:57:06      jennifer manson:      Agree Pasi. My grandkids were in a 2000 student school last year (in Canberra) and now doing better in a smaller school.

00:57:34      john canning:      wait till you get to uni...

00:58:18      Beverley May:      Spot on Correna - class size is definitely a factor!

00:58:32      Stephen Dunn: restoring pay equality between teachers and NSW politicians - as it was decades ago - would greatly reduce the problems of attracting teachers

00:59:13      john canning:      restoring some discipline where necessary may help restore respect as well

00:59:31      Pamela Collett: Destruction of public education is part of the neoliberal agenda

00:59:40      Stephen Dunn: And parental support of teachers vs their wayward children

00:59:41      B King: Unfortunately our education departments listen to John Hattie and his assertions that class size doesn't matter. But every parent, teacher and student knows it does.

00:59:45      Jim Hanna:      It's incorrect to say that private schools receive more government funding than public schools. They do not.

01:00:18 john canning: No Jim but they do get more money from the parents...

01:00:26 B King: But Jim, should they get any public funding?

01:00:46 jennifer manson: Respect between parents, teachers and students must be mutual, not one way.

01:00:58 john canning: the legacy caste system from the UK - wealth matters

01:01:04 Jim Hanna: The question was "why do they get more public funding?" I'm saying they do not.

01:01:21 Beverley May: Disparity between pay rates in public and private schools impacting public schools retaining staff members, particularly when there is a chronic shortage of teachers

01:01:43 Paul Loring: Jim H justify your assertion please

01:02:04 john canning: if people earn more money then they feel they are entitle to see their kids be better educated and importantly, networked, than those that earn less...

01:02:06 rod sayers: so many barrows - so few questions!

01:02:25 Leonie Ebert: I agree Correna, class size is very important I remember being involved in very effective class size campaigns in the 80s. Time to campaign again

01:03:07 B King: We do need this campaign again Leonie.

01:03:26 Liz Glab: @Martin Connolly. I asked how best to frame and campaign, not what to do. The current system is so entrenched.

01:03:35 john canning: Smaller classes means more teachers or perhaps more assistant robots...

01:03:48 David Zyngier: Class sizes have increased since the 1980s as well as teacher F2F time and a reduction of PD times.

01:04:03 Jim Hanna: The Productivity Commission's latest Report on Government Services says that in 2019-20 public schools received \$20,182 per student compared with \$13,189 per non-government school student.

01:04:05 B King: We can have and need a TA in every classroom.

01:04:12 Martin Connolly: @Liz Glab - saw that :)

01:04:42 Leigh Bartlett: the problem we have with schools that have those models embedded in them such as lawyers etc are then perceived by local families as 'schools with issues' so they move away from enrolling their children.

01:05:27 john canning: The private schools say exactly that - that's why they are there to create their own distinct community and advantages to help their kids defeat the outside world!

01:05:35 Angela Munro: The use of acronyms in chat excludes the average participant from discussion/learning

01:05:42 Stephen Dunn: Removal of back room - regional office - support has greatly increased the workload of school staff having to deal with non educational issues reducing time for pupils education.

01:06:47 David Zyngier: @JimHanna if only that was true! As we know the SRS for secondary is \$15K+ per student and every school except for those in the ACT is underfunded.

01:07:21 Martin Connolly: @Liz Glab - your question has disappeared!?

01:08:18 Jim Hanna: @DavidZyngier, and you would know that that the SRS base amount is reduced for non-government schools according to the median income of their parents. It's not for government schools.

01:09:01 Pasi Sahlberg: By design: New foundations for teaching and learning  
<https://www.griffithreview.com/articles/by-design/>

01:09:39 Liz Glab: @Martin Connolly. Has it disappeared? I can still see it?

01:10:34 David Zyngier: @JimHanna not until 2029! Currently private schools charging \$40K for year 12 still receive approximately \$4K per student of public funding. Any school charging over the SRS should immediately lose ALL public funding.

01:10:42 Pamela Collett: The issue of private schools is not just about funding but rather they are based on exclusion and division and undermine a democratic society

01:12:06 Jannene Kyytsonen: communication and feedback loops between students, parents, teachers, schools and community stakeholders is crucial in evolving an education vision and outcome, that all can be happy with.

01:12:38 Jim Hanna: @DavidZyngier, less than 5% of non-government schools charge the kind of fees you mention.

01:12:53 jennifer manson: Private schools are often commercial entities that operate accordingly, not necessarily putting caring first. It all depends on the goal of the school and implementation of the principal, along with their staff.

01:12:54 john canning: hmmm disagree as the tech improves... new AI and metaverse will make teachers and potentially students obsolete...!!!

01:13:10 Pamela Collett: Either you believe in quality public education as a human right for all or you don't

01:13:11 Leigh Bartlett: our organisation runs a number of programs across schools in our region for vulnerable students who are at high risk of disconnection from school. Changes to EBA esp TIL agreements are creating real challenges in how we roll those programs out in 2023 .If we have to consider paying for CRTs within these programs, the number of students who can get support will be significantly reduced. In some communities the lack of access to CRTs will mean we may not be able to offer programs .

01:13:44 john canning: Alexa is coming to a school near you....

01:14:01 jennifer manson: John, many students require human interaction to motivate them. Most people do, including kids.



- 01:14:32 Michael Lawrence: I asked Finnish teachers how they coped with remote learning and their response was that students had tried to ensure it didn't impact their studies.
- 01:14:32 john canning: to be contrarian... why human? An android can do this as well in time and so can some animals...
- 01:14:44 Stephen Dunn: CRT -cathode ray tube?
- 01:15:35 Jannene Kyytsonen: The space and IT sector is facing huge gaps in skills for future workforce, as we transition into digital economy and IoT.
- 01:15:40 Leigh Bartlett: CRT- relief teachers, substitute teachers
- 01:15:41 Jim Hanna: Sadly, there will be always be inequality in the public school system because our cities have varying pockets of wealth. If you can afford to live on Sydney's North Shore, your public school is better off than the public schools in Sydney's southwest.
- 01:15:49 john canning: A combination of calming pets along with a sophisticated android in a 3D world setting with a sensory body suit could be the future...
- 01:16:08 jennifer manson: For you perhaps John.
- 01:16:11 john canning: hehe
- 01:16:21 john canning: Its happening in Japan I hear
- 01:16:34 rod sayers: John is a bot?
- 01:16:34 Beverley May: hear hear Pasi
- 01:17:09 Leonie Ebert: I agree Pasi
- 01:17:20 Michael Lawrence: Our children are our country's greatest resource
- 01:17:40 john canning: Can you tell Rod? Tech is coming in one way or another.... and it has the potential to be a great equaliser or worse... community needs to be better informed to decide well....
- 01:18:11 Stephen Dunn: The American military Industrial complex vs the education of our children - make a choice!
- 01:18:52 Leigh Bartlett: thank you
- 01:18:52 Suzanne Storer: Thank you all
- 01:18:52 Sumithri (Australia Institute): That's all the time we have today, thank you for joining us!

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01:19:01 Jennifer Hortin: Thank you!



01:19:02      rod sayers:      thx

01:19:02      jennifer manson:      Thanks Pasi, Correna & Ebony!!!!

01:19:04      john canning:      thank you very interesting

01:19:05      Janice Creenaune:      Needs based funding. Simple. Our children are indeed our greatest resource and the greatest need is not being met with funding as it stands. This must be changed asap.

01:19:06      Jannene Kyytsonen:      hei hei pasi kiitos kaikki

01:19:07      Peter Barden:      Thanks for that.

01:19:07      Sharna Drehlich:      Thanks

01:19:11      Kate El Idrissi:      Thanks everyone! Very interesting.

01:19:16      Penelope Hume:      Thank you all

01:19:21      Meredith Prager:      Thank you all very much!

01:19:22      Pamela Collett:      Thanks everyone. Now we need to get politicians on board to support quality public education for all

01:19:27      Jan Davis:      Good work

01:19:27      Melissa Hoile:      Thank you. Valuable conversation. Much appreciated.

01:19:57      Lani Madigan:      Thanks all!

01:20:04      Annette Gray:      Thank you