

Tuesday, 10 October 2006

[Print](#) | [Close](#)

Schools get pick 'n' pay approach to education

THE decision by the State Government to allow Steiner programs into state schools represents another nail in the coffin of free, secular and universal public education in Victoria.

Education Lynne Minister Kosky would have us believe this is just another matter of parental "choice".

But the only choices relevant here are whether the State Government chooses to really support public education by working towards educational "best practice", or whether it chooses to stand back and watch the public education system decay rapidly under the weight and confusion of more so-called Steiner streams.

Footscray City Primary School and Castlemaine Secondary College are excellent examples of what happens when school councils take their eyes off the main game and cave in to parents who, armed with their self-righteous religious fundamentalist views, demand elite, private and segregated schooling paid out of the public purse.

Even though Ms Kosky may wish to avoid understanding the religious nature of Steiner education, the facts are irrefutable and can easily be confirmed by reading any one of Rudolf Steiner's many books.

Unlike, for example, Catholic education, where the only actual religious teaching occurs during an RE class, the totality of Steiner education is infused with religiosity; from numeracy and literacy to history, art and science.

Although Steiner schools don't teach religion the way a Catholic, Christian or Muslim school might, the whole curriculum is based on a particular set of deeply held spiritual notions; notions which are anathema to some parents and offbeat to many.

This decision to allow state schools to adopt a pick 'n' pay delicatessen approach to education confirms the State Government's complete indifference to the future of public education.

DENIS GEORGE, Castlemaine

The Advertiser

Copyright © 2007. Rural Press Limited