

A Personal Review of the Productivity Commission Interim Report National School Reform Agreement 2022

Introduction

I admire the insight and frankness of the Commissioners: I regard the report to be groundbreaking but I struggled, in personal overload of daily agenda, to assimilate breadth and intricacy of points.

I feel imperative to comment on the format of the section *Recommendations and findings*, pp. 29-41 (see Appendix A), and the use of (many) acronyms across the report (see Appendix B). In Appendix B I have also made brief comment on the matter of prioritising recommendations.

My Stance on the 2022 Interim Report

I support the direction of the Report: in part it states concerns that I have worked with over the last 40 plus years, in schools with and for alienated/distanced young people and adults - a sequence of 18 schools (10 in principal class positions) – and in several state Education Department office roles.

Further, thankfully, the report notes what I found in 2020 when writing a doctoral study component on discourses. I scrutinised Productivity Commission Education Reports from 2010 to 2020 and found (unpublished as yet) that:

- significant Organisation for Economic Development data on which our national discourses rely, is contestable for validity;
- in line with Commissioners Brennan, Roberts and Siegel-Brown conclusions, some significant Productivity Commission recommendations and intentions have dropped-out over the years.

I find that the report presents logical conclusions, raising ‘true’ equity concerns, and:

- Publication of an *Overview* separate from the total Interim Report was helpful
- The *Interim Reports Contents* pages offer promise of suitable shape for reading
- The *Key Points* are refreshingly succinct, introducing a fine tenor

However, in reading the body of the text I experienced difficulty in assimilating points:

- Use of acronyms seriously clouded readability
- the layout of *Recommendations and Findings* seemed confusingly erratic

Suggestions

My premise is that overworked school leaders and other educators and advisors may form clear responses if the text-shape of the report aids readers’ review of topics and themes, to project into and enunciate workable responses.

I suggest an editor improve formatting, especially of the *Recommendations and findings* section (see my Appendix A).

In Closing

With strong views on the content also, I would be pleased to discuss the overall report further: to advance community progress I have access to literary references and network companions, and knowledge of tested useful-practices.

Noel D Holmes (Adv. Dip T(Sec), B. Ed, M. Ed)

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Margin annotated excerpt of *Recommendations and findings*.

Appendix B - Opinions on Format and Content of the interim Report