



MEDIA RELEASE

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FamilyVoice defends parental rights

Parental rights in the choice of education only exist when society allows a distinctive approach in non-government schools, despite the “statist rhetoric” expressed by MP Dave Kelly in *The West Australian* (23/2/2024), according to FamilyVoice WA Director Darryl Budge.

“Parents are voting with their feet as they choose independent education, with its distinctive faith-based ethos, despite the rhetoric of statist proponents such as MP Dave Kelly,” Darryl Budge said.

“Dave Kelly should recognise freedom of choice, even if it doesn’t suit his own political agenda.”

FamilyVoice Australia points out that thousands of parents are choosing teachers and child-carers in organisations that promote a distinctive set of values that usually are faith-based.

“Independent education must be different to State schools, and that requires the freedom to promote different values,” Darryl Budge said.

“We remind MPs that Australia is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which obliges governments to permit parents to shape the religious and cultural beliefs of their children, at home and in school.

“Since parents have the right to exclude unsuitable babysitters or live-in nannies, who is Dave Kelly to claim that parents are wrong to choose schools whose teachers follow a specified code of conduct?”

“Teachers who seek employment in faith-based schools know fully well what those institutions represent and are hired because they agree to those values and agree to live accordingly,” Darryl Budge said.

“Don’t parents have the right to know that teachers at their school are all practising the values parents uphold?”

Further details:

Darryl Budge - 0468 454 507