



South Australian Debating Association Inc

Intermediate B, Grand Final

TOPIC : *that we should abolish private schools*

1. Type of Topic

This is a normative debate. This means that the Affirmative should propose a 'model' (a policy on how this idea would be implemented). This model should be clearly described to outline what changes the Affirmative team will make to the status quo, and how these changes will be enacted. The Negative team can either support the status quo or propose a counter-model. This counter-model must be different from the status quo, but also different from the model the Affirmative team is suggesting. The Negative team should ensure they clearly identify whether they are supporting the status quo or proposing a counter-model.

2. Background / Context

There are two main types of schools in Australia, public and private. Public schools are those completely funded by the government, whereas private schools receive government funding, but also charge additional fees to their students' families.

Whereas public schools all offer a very similar curriculum, private schools have some more freedom. For example, many private schools are religious schools that teach their students about their associated religion. Many religious parents may therefore choose to send their children to private schools to learn about their religion.

3. Specific Questions for consideration

- Many students go to private schools. If these schools were abolished, what would happen to these students?
 - How would the education system change to accommodate for the influx of students previously attending private schools?
 - What would happen to the school campuses of the private schools?
- How would abolishing private schools affect the quality of education students receive?
 - Does either type of school offer a better education?
- What types of families typically send their children to private schools?
- What types of families typically send their children to public schools?
- How would abolishing private schools affect the people students interact with?
- Do private schools exacerbate a class divide?
 - If so, would this problem be fixed by abolishing them?

- For public schools, what is meant by school zoning?
 - How does this affect enrolments to that school?
- Is it important for parents to have the ability to send their children to a school that teaches them values in line with the parents' (e.g. religion)?
 - How could this be achieved if private schools were abolished?

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