

A CREATIVE RENEWING OF OUR SCHOOLS

A Vision

A Vision for Our Schools as contributing to Creative Solutions for 21st Century Problems

1. Invest in People and their Education
2. Invest in our Resources - Solar Power Panels on every school roof
3. Invest in our Colleges as Educational, Social, Cultural, and Community Centres and as well as Revenue generating Work Places.

Canberra with few natural resources, can invest in her people to create a Canberra that is the Centre of excellence in Artistic, Scientific, and Creative Work making Canberra the Cultural Capital of Australia.

1. Invest in People and their Education

The aim of education is to assist students to achieve their full potential as human beings through encouraging their talents, abilities and desires, by giving them a taste of a diverse range of subjects and ideas and equipping them with some skills and certification to proceed to their next step in life.

Colleges provide an adult environment involving greater trust that develops skills for independent decision making and self reliance.

Closing Dickson College reduces choice.

Dickson College offers wider choices of courses and subjects than a year 7-12 Campbell High School can provide. If Dickson College were to close the following, to mention just a few, courses and facilities could not be provided at Campbell High School Y7-12:

- Antill Drama Theatre and Drama Studio (recently built from refurbishing a tiered lecture theatre at \$4M) which offers VET in Theatre providing a Certificate II in Production for Live Theatre. This Certificate is only available at Colleges and not at the CIT. Erindale and Lake Tuggeranong are the only government colleges that offer this Certificate, so if Dickson is closed this Certificate would not be offered on the north side.
- Fully sound proofed Music and Recording Studios providing VET courses in music.
- Media Studies offering VET Certificates
- CISCO Computing Management Training Lab.

By investing in the broadest education we equip students to gain skills to assist them in solving 21st Century problems in creative ways.

With the environmental challenges we will need different sorts of plumbers, builders, sociologists, environmentalists, scientists, educators and artists.

In the future there will not be jobs for people to walk into. In the future we will need different jobs, jobs that we are yet to even envision. In times of great challenges, society will need more independent and creative thinkers and doers to create new jobs to solve the problems we have already and those we are yet to meet.

We do not need to divide and “stream” courses and thus students after year 10 into predefined academically or vocationally oriented courses at separate institutions. We need the broad choices and creative environments that a College offers where students can mix and match their own subjects.

We need greater interdisciplinary studies to meet the students and society’s 21st Century needs and desires rather than a course-driven curriculum which would inhibit the creative solutions for 21st Century problems.

2. Invest in Solar Resources

Wisely invest the \$90M in our Schools by putting solar panels on every school roof.

Invest the \$90M Capital to give recurrent returns.

The solar power produced would reduce the running costs of the schools and produce income. Excess solar power, can be added to the grid, thus producing income that can be turned back into the school's educational, cultural, social and infrastructure requirements.

ACT cannot have a resource lead economy. ACT is short on land resources, the selling off of which will soon hit a brick wall, but we can have a people lead economy.

We can make Canberra the Cultural, Intellectual, Scientific, Innovative Technology and Industry Centre of Australia, solving 21st Century problems in creative ways

3. Invest in Colleges as Educational, Social, Cultural and Working Centres

Alternate College Models

Other states are moving to a clustering college model and moving away from Y7-12 High Schools. In Victoria, Cluster Senior Colleges consist of multiple campuses, such as Bayside Secondary College, and Sunshine College.

Inner north Canberra could have that model now with Lyneham, Campbell and Dickson.

This model would offer a choice that is not available in non-government schools.

College open all hours for society's education

Dickson College currently is home to many Cultural and Social Groups after "normal" school hours. This could be broadened even more. An older population using educational facilities can become an even wiser and more creative population.

College as a Place of Learning and Creation

Dickson College's current facilities such as

- Antill Drama Theatre and Drama Studio
- Fully sound proofed Music and Recording Studios

can become fully operational Cultural and Work Environments, further generating income as well as giving students more seamless links between places of study, work and creativity.

Conclusion – a Creative Alternative

Schools as Educational, Social, Cultural and Working Centres that also generate income

With few natural resources, Canberra can invest in her people and Canberra can be a centre of artistic, scientific, etc excellence – the Cultural Capital of Australia.

Investment in people especially their education will reap greater rewards.

Put Solar Power on every school roof to generate power for schools and feedback to the grid to generate income.

Schools could be opened many hours of the day thus becoming full Community resources for continuing learning and places of creative work and income generation.

Retain the separate College and Year 7-10 High School.