



ACHPER SA
POSITION PAPER
USER PAYS HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

A trend is emerging in Australian education sites to use external providers to service HPE classes. A number of businesses have now developed whole school curriculum and are actively canvassing education departments and individual schools to sell their product. This purchase of a teaching and learning program generally occurs at a "per head" cost to the student.

When a school decides to purchase a teaching and learning program over a period of time they are effectively acknowledging that their teachers are unable to meet the learning needs of their students.

In most cases the parents are asked to meet the costs of the external provider. For some families, this is a significant additional cost to their normal educational needs. Also of concern, many of these programs are marketed on the basis that presenters are elite or highly competent sport athletes. The presenters who enter the school to run the program do not necessarily have educational training.

Position Statements

- Well planned teaching and learning programs revolve around the needs of children and are moulded and adapted over time subject to continuous formative assessment. Drop in programs are unable to do this.
- Money spent on buying a program may be better spent on training teachers or employing a part time HPE Educator.
- It is the school responsibility to provide a comprehensive and appropriately resourced HPE program.
- It is the schools responsibility, without charge, to provide a comprehensive and appropriately resourced HPE program as part of the core curriculum.
- Each school should have an appropriately qualified HPE educator delivering, monitoring and planning the schools HPE program.
- External providers should value add to a schools HPE program, not be used as a substitute.

Accepted and endorsed by the ACHPER (SA) Board- August 19, 2004