

## Education is a Value in Itself

NSW Minister for Education Rob Stokes in his speech at Queenwood's Balmoral Lecture has challenged 'the dominance of STEM orthodoxy in Australian education' saying "prioritising STEM over other disciplines has become an educational fad."

Mr Stokes said, "Knowledge, at its core, is multi- disciplinary and that the idea our education system must be structured to preference STEM at the expense of the arts is ludicrous."

His speech accentuated on how the world is changing at a rapid speed and that how essential it was to "have a clear understanding of what the purpose of contemporary education is." He went onto say, "Our educational institutions exist primarily to help educate the next generation to build a more just and more engaged society."

P&C Federation President Susie Boyd commented, "P&C Federation is extremely pleased that the NSW Education Minister Rob Stokes has addressed the underlying purpose of education is to ensure our young people become effective contributing members of society."

"It is very encouraging to see that the NSW Minister for Education is focussing on a well-balanced student-centric education system that meets their leaning needs of our children."

We encourage governments to also ensure that our schools are well resourced with highly skilled professional teachers and funding to enable students' success.

We applaud the Minister for not devaluing other disciplines in the push to promote STEM subjects and highlighting the importance of "a true multidisciplinary system, where ideas permeate disciplinary boundaries."

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