



## The Privatisation of Education: QPEC Factfiles

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### AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM WITH A NEW ZEALAND FOCUS

The Quality Public Education Coalition (QPEC) has launched on June 10, 2005 a new resource called 'factfiles' for parents, students, educators, journalists, commentators and politicians and all those interested in education policy in the early childhood education, school or tertiary sectors. Each factfile takes an even-handed look at the key issues involved in different aspects of educational reform around the world both from the point of view of advocates of public education as well as those supporting privatisation.

There are 42 documents (factfiles) which are accessible from <http://qpec.org.nz/privatisation/>. Each one of them outlines the key issues on an educational topic from the point of view of advocates of public education, and those wishing for a more private system. They provide references to the best and most up-to-date international research in each area. Some have extensive references, others are brief. As the year progresses, the factfiles will be updated with the policies of the various political parties.

The factfiles include the following topics:

- *Early Childhood Education* – The structure and funding of Early Childhood Education in New Zealand.
- *Charter schools* – US policy to give schools more self-management opportunities.
- *Class size and school size* – A brief look at the issues involved with class and school size.
- *Communities and choice* – How parent income affects choice of school.
- *Examinations* – Why are some schools choosing Cambridge International Exams?
- *Who should run schools?* – Looking at the issues involved in managing schools.
- *Reform to overcome disadvantage* – A brief look at attempts to improve educational achievement for minority ethnic groups.

The research reveals that with privatisation policies –

1. There is no improvement in student achievement.
2. Popular schools choose the students they want rather than the other way round.
3. There is less choice and lower quality for young people from lower income communities at all levels of education.
4. The quality of education depends on a person's ability to pay.

Taken together the factfiles reveal the deception behind so-called 'school choice' policies, 'voucher' schemes and private provision of education as well as pointing to the huge damage from continuing and growing privatisation under the current government.

This has been a huge project, and it is hoped that the outcome will be a much more informed debate around key education issues in this election year. QPEC is encouraging anyone to download, read and provide feedback on any of the factfiles.



## About the Author(s)

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