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# VARIETY AND CHOICE: Good schools for All Australians

Variety and Choice recounts the political history of the debate about government funding of non-government schools from the First Fleet to the present day. It contrasts the policies of the major parties and details the role of various Churches and interest groups in lobbying both for and against the provision of financial assistance to non-government schools. This is not a lengthy policy tract. It is a book full of human drama. Graeme Starr tells the story of how the schools that educated more than a quarter of Australia's children were deliberately neglected by governments for nearly a century. He recounts that Robert Menzies' government inherited a crisis but launched a real education revolution that saved our school system. He also tells the story of parents in Goulburn who called the bluff of State politicians and bureaucrats and forced changes in policies and attitudes to the funding of non-government schools.

WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS FUNDING DUE TO REPORT SOON, THIS BOOK WILL MAKE A TIMELY CONTRIBUTION TO AN IMPORTANT ONGOING POLICY DEBATE.



*Dr Graeme Starr, a political scientist, has worked in politics and has taught government and business at several major universities in Australia and overseas. He was educated at government schools in western Sydney. He has degrees from Sydney University, Carleton University Canada and West Virginia University. He has written widely on government, politics and public policy. He is presently working on a biography of the former Federal Education Minister Sir John Carrick.*

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