

14th July 2006

Dear States Members,

It seems that you and your so called advisers will stop at nothing to try and make up for mistakes you have made in the past that now leaves Jersey in a precarious financial position. I am referring to the proposed 3% GST on school fees. I find it without doubt the most ludicrous scheme that you have come up with so far. It's bad enough that we have to pay this tax at all, but when you start taxing people for something that they should be getting a tax rebate on, it seems that things have really gone too far. I should be grateful if you or one of your advisors would answer the questions below so that I may try and make some sense of this madness.

1. Why is it that you feel that people that pay for their children's education should pay GST? We are not all rich.
2. What will the States of Jersey do if all the people who pay for their children's education demand their free places; to which they are entitled, tomorrow?
3. How will the States fund these extra places as from three schools alone it will cost the States in the region of £2m. If we add JCG Prep, Victoria Prep, JCG, Victoria College, St. Georges, St Michaels, St Christopher's and Helvetia, how will the States provide for these extra children?

Jersey's state education is only as good as it is because of the children who go to private schools. If the State schools had to provide for those children who receive private education the class sizes would be astronomical, or the States would have to build four extra secondary schools and a minimum of six extra primary schools, plus fund teachers and resources to take these children.

I am not a rich person, far from it, but I decided to send my children to private schools at great sacrifice to myself and my husband. We do not go on expensive holidays, if we go at all it is usually to U.K or if we are lucky France. We do not own a plasma T.V or swimming pool. We do not wear designer

clothing or go to a gym. We have one small hatchback car and we both work more hours than we should. All this is of our own choosing so we just get on with it, because our one indulgence is to send our children to private schools.

It really sticks in my throat that we are going through all this plus saving the states money; we are already helping to pay for the education of the children in the non fee paying sector plus paying for our own, and you propose as well as all this we should pay another 3%, preposterous.

If I find that I am no longer able to keep my children at their schools because of this tax, I will demand a place, at once, at my catchment area school. If this place is not forthcoming I will refuse to send my children to school until my right as a tax payer is fulfilled.

In the meanwhile I should be most grateful if you would answer the above questions and forward them to me at the above address at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully