

## **New Nationals Leader Barnaby Joyce Must Stand up for Gonski to Ensure kids in the Bush Aren't Left Behind, Parents say**

**February 12, 2016**

New Nationals Leader Barnaby Joyce must stand up for the Gonski reforms to ensure kids in the bush have the same opportunities as their city cousins, parents said today.

Federation of P&C NSW President Jason Vials congratulated Mr Joyce on his appointment as Nationals Leader and his rise to the Deputy Prime Ministership.

However, he said Mr Joyce, previously a strong supporter of the Gonski reforms, should now champion them as leader and bring Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on board.

The Gonski funding would address the disadvantage regional kids face and also lead to additional jobs in rural and regional communities, Mr Vials said.

“In his resignation speech, former Nationals Leader Warren Truss reminded us he had come from a small regional school and wondered whether a kid like him could still aspire to be Deputy Prime Minister,” Mr Vials said.

“The answer to that question is in your hands.

“Our kids deserve the same chances in life as their city cousins - and education is the key to those chances.

“If the Nationals still claim truly to stand up for rural and regional Australia, they cannot fail our kids now.”

Mr Vials said the Gonski review had established that rural and regional kids fall behind their metropolitan counterparts at school.

The needs based Gonski funding model - which is supported by the Nationals NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli - ensures significant additional funds go to rural and regional schools to help counteract the disadvantage inherent in their location, he said.

Sydney, NSW, 27 January 2016

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