

NSW kids back to school after Turnbull quietly dumps Gonski funding during holidays

Kids return to public schools today without hope of proper funding for their education, after the Federal Coalition during the holidays quietly dropped its promise to provide it, parents said today.

The Federal Coalition before the last election promised to fund the Gonski reforms, which guaranteed all Australian students a world-class education, Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) said.

“It is unfortunate that this special time of year is being marred by the decision of the federal government to break its promise to properly fund education in Australia,” P&C Federation President Jason Vials said in a media release.

“The Gonski reforms were independently recommended and supported by all major political parties at the last federal election.”

“Yet new Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham has just walked away from the promises made to the electorate, and to the students of Australia.”

Gonski funding commenced in 2014 after an independent review found too many Australian children were unable to access a high quality education due to a lack of government funding.

The system allocated funds to schools based on individual students’ needs. It was designed to ensure all Australian children would receive a world-class education irrespective of their background and parents’ resources.

Mr Vials said education funding is not a cost – it is an investment in the future of our country.

“Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull talks about the need for an agile and innovative workforce, and the importance of students excelling in Science and Maths,” he said.

“But Mr Turnbull refuses to provide the funding our education system needs to achieve those outcomes.”

“We need a Federal Government genuinely committed to a bright future for our country and its people.”

The initial implementation of the Gonski reforms have been enthusiastically embraced in NSW by the State Government, by principals, teachers and parents, he said.

“We have seen the difference the extra funding is already making to our schools and

FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Locked Bag 40, GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Telephone: 1300 885 982

Website: www.pandc.org.au

Fax: 1800 655 866

ABN: 37 439 975 796

student outcomes,” he said.

“We call on the Federal Government to honour its promises, and join all of the stakeholders in our education system to ensure a bright future for the students of Australia.”

Mr Vials wished all students, parents and teachers a happy and successful year, especially those taking their first big step on the great adventure of education.

Sydney, NSW, 28 January 2016

For Further Media Information Contact:

Media Contact:

President Jason Vials

0418 163 665

president@pandc.org.au

FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Locked Bag 40, GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Telephone: 1300 885 982

Website: www.pandc.org.au

Fax: 1800 655 866

ABN: 37 439 975 796