

Minister Birmingham Should Not Torpedo Gonski!

Public school parents in NSW remain committed to the Gonski funding agreement despite Federal Government attempts to torpedo it.

NSW P&C Federation President Susie Boyd said Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham is being disingenuous and is trying to destroy support across school sectors for Gonski.

"If Mr. Birmingham wants to cut private school funding that's his problem but we stand by Gonski," Ms. Boyd said in a statement.

"By hook or by crook he's trying to undermine the school funding agreements, recreating the bitter arguments of the past.

"First he tried the angle of 'corruption' with differentials in funding across states, now he's citing disparity between sectors - as if the Coalition has only just realised it exists.

"Mr. Birmingham needs to stop looking for ways to ignore the findings of the Gonski report, we want to know that our children's education is not dependent on the postcode they reside in."

Ms. Boyd said recent analysis shows that in fact, under Coalition proposals, private school funding increases from 2018.

Education funding expert Jim McMorrow released a paper in August analysing the federal Budget papers, showing 62 per cent of extra money would go to private schools after 2017 – irrespective of student needs.

However, implementing the final two years of the Gonski agreements would direct 80 per cent of the extra funding to public schools.

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For Further Media Information Contact:

Media Contact:

President Susie Boyd

0416 298 593

president@pandc.org.au

FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Locked Bag 40, GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Telephone: 1300 885 982

Fax: 1800 655 866

Website: www.pandc.org.au

ABN: 37 439 975 796