

## Federal Government Still Refuses to Take Responsibility for Schools Funding Seriously

The federal government's latest budget denies our children the promised school funding they desperately need. The massive funding increase called for in the Gonski Review is nowhere to be seen, parents said today.

NSW P&C Federation President Jason Vials said the Coalition's plan to provide \$1.2 billion extra federal school funding over three years from 2018 was the latest in a string of education proposals run up the flag pole by the government but not delivered on.

"Despite proposing to walk away from public schools altogether a couple of weeks ago, the Prime Minister is apparently now interested again - yet the budget is no closer to fully committing to the funding the independent Gonski Review showed we need so that every Australian student gets a world-class education." Mr Vials said.

Mr Vials condemned the government for attempting to shirk responsibility for funding increases by putting even more pressure on the teachers of our youngest students; in the form of unnecessary testing Kindergarten children.

Kindergarten students will be tested to identify learning problems and teachers' pay will be linked to standards being met rather than length of service under the proposal.

"More testing of young children, where pay is linked to teaching standards, will not solve the shortfall in school finances; it will only increase stress on staff and students," he said.

"This goes against the concept of needs based funding, which Senator Birmingham claims to support. Funds will flow to schools that test well, rather than those who need it most."

Mr Vials said the federal government needs to start taking Australia's future seriously; that the latest budget missed yet another opportunity to finally fund our schools properly.

"While we are relieved to see some movement on this issue by Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison, the billions lost by not proceeding with the Gonski funding will hit our most needy students and schools hardest," he said.

Parents give this budget a "Fail" when it comes to education funding.

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