

Gonski 2.0 Must Not Renege on Gonski 1.0

P&C Federation is encouraged that the ongoing campaign for the Federal Government to honour their Gonski needs-based funding model is having an effect.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Education Minister Simon Birmingham announced recently that they accept the principles outlined in the 2011 Gonski report and have pledged that the Federal Government contribution to government schools will increase from 17% now to 20% of the schooling resource standard by 2020. They also announced David Gonski will lead another review into education funding to be completed by the end of this year, dubbed "Gonski 2.0" by Mr Turnbull.

However, any Gonski 2.0 agreement must only apply after Gonski 1.0 has run its course.

"We are adamant that the Federal Government must not renege on the funding promised under the Gonski agreement signed in 2013", commented P&C Federation President Susie Boyd. "That agreement was signed in good faith and guaranteed funding up to the year 2019, and we have no intention of letting the Turnbull Government off the hook."

The last two years of the 2013 agreement are crucial, as these are the years when most Federal funding is due to be provided. It would make no sense to upend this agreement before its full effect has been assessed.

"A deal is a deal", Ms Boyd stated. "Presumably, the Federal Government would not appreciate an agreement it entered into to be changed before the main benefits come into effect, and there is no reason for the New South Wales Government to agree to that either."

Ms Boyd added "New funding arrangements for after 2019 would always have to be agreed upon, so in that sense we are not against a Gonski 2.0 agreement. But we are concerned that what was recently announced will be used by the Federal Government to get out of its current commitments, which will impact on over 700,000 students in our state's public schools.

"What we want is that the Federal Government commits to an equitable education funding and allows it to run its full course."

"We expect that any further review by David Gonski would regard funding models to be enacted only after current funding agreements are completed. We will maintain pressure on the Federal Government to ensure this is the case."

Sydney, NSW, 03 May 2017

Media Contact:

President Susie Boyd

0418 163 665

susie.boyd@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