

Government School Classrooms Are The Priority

P&C Federation is profoundly disheartened that the New South Wales State Government has promised half a billion dollars to non-government schools over four years to build new classrooms.

According to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Education Minister Rob Stokes, the \$500,000,000 of funding will be for non-government schools to build, extend or upgrade their schools. This is on top of the \$4.6 billion already promised to non-government schools by the Federal Government.

P&C Federation President Susie Boyd commented "Government schools are public assets, which makes it the government's responsibility to fund them. Private schools are private assets, so there is no justification for governments to fund them so lavishly from the public purse."

"The combined Federal and NSW State governments will already overfund non-government schools by a whopping \$160,000,000. There is no reason at all for this new lavish gift of half a billion dollars."

"The state is facing enormous enrolment numbers over the next decade. The large majority of these increased student numbers will be in the government school sector, so that is where the majority of funding should go."

"It's not complicated and it shouldn't be controversial. Governments have a direct responsibility for public assets and should not put private assets ahead of that responsibility"

Under the State Government's own predictions, there will be at least 164,000 more students in government schools by 2031. The NSW Auditor General has previously discussed the State Government's "chronic under-investment in NSW government school infrastructure", which makes this latest announcement all the more absurd.

Ms Boyd added "Why are our governments bending over backwards for non-government schools, many of which are already overfunded? It's time our elected representatives stop playing political games and prioritise public schools, where the funding is actually needed."

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