

Public Education is the Priority

Following P&C Federation's Annual General Meeting, we call on the Federal Government to establish an education funding model that ends the preferential treatment of non-government schools and prioritises public schools. This means ending the perverse current model, where the majority of Federal Government education funding goes to non-government schools, despite over 65% of students attending public schools.

P&C Federation President Susie Boyd commented "It is grotesque that the Federal Government gives most of its education budget to non-government schools when those schools are already better resourced and accept a proportionally lower number of students with disadvantages. Non-government schools charge exorbitant fees on top of their Government funding, which means they will always have more revenue than public schools under current funding models. It is insulting that the Federal Government thinks it acceptable that it can provide four times the funding to a non-government school student as it does for a student attending a public school."

"Other countries reduce government funding for schools that charge fees, and Australia has signed international treaties stating that free education is a human right. So there is no reason why our government can't change the current funding system."

P&C Federation calls for a funding model that prioritises public schools, which most students attend. Public schools must be funded with the fundamental purpose of education in mind, and funding to this level must not depend on fundraising from the school community.

Our previously signed funding agreement (NERA), promised a level of funding that was never seen, due to the hugest renege by a government in Australia's education history.

Ms Boyd stated "The recent leadership upheavals in Canberra mean the time is ripe for a revamp in education funding. New people bring the possibility of new vision, preferably with an education policy targeted to assist the needs of the many over the needs of a few. Canberra politicians need to show they care for all of the children of Australia equally. We are not second-class citizens, we do not deserve 20% of the attention and resources."

"Going back on one's word, breaking election promises and throwing away the wants, needs and trust of the Australian people is what Federal Politicians have done amazingly well over the past few years, not to mention frequently throwing away our prime ministers before their due by dates - they should be ashamed of themselves."

Ms Boyd added "Now is the time to tell our elected representatives that if they want our vote in the looming elections, they had better commit themselves to doing the best for our children's public education."

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