

Gonski 2.0 Cements Unfairness in Education Funding

In response to the drastic underfunding education currently receives, Shadow Minister for Education Tanya Plibersek has proposed to establish an Evidence Institute for Schools, an independent body which will gather evidence on the best methods to improve student results. The Australian Research Council's 2015-16 Excellence in Research Australia report showed the Commonwealth spent about \$20 million a year on educational research compared to about \$600 million on medicine and health research.

This announcement comes on the heels of statistical analysis recently published by the Save Our Schools organisation showing that public education is drastically underfunded compared to private schools. Under current funding, Government schools in New South Wales by the year 2027 will be funded at just 91% of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), whereas independent schools will be funded at 107% of the SRS by 2027.

Moreover, combined Commonwealth and State/Territory funding for education nationwide was cut by \$88 per student in public education in 2009-2016, whereas funding increased by \$1165 per student in private education in the same period.

P&C Federation President Susie Boyd commented "By any equitable standard, these figures are exactly backwards. The bulk of disadvantaged students are enrolled in public education, be they children of low income families, Indigenous or refugee children, or children from broken homes. This is where the majority of funding increases should go, not to private schools which are already better resourced and have far fewer disadvantaged students."

"This should not be a matter of partisan politics, this is a matter of basic fairness and common sense."

Ms Boyd added "The future well-being of our society lies in the education of our children, and education therefore belongs with healthcare as a vital service. Public Education offers one of the best pathways for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to become contributing members of society.

"The underfunding of this system is appalling and schools deserve far more resources to help students reach their full potential."

P&C Federation calls on the Government to reform its education funding to be equitable to the students most in need.

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