

Inequitable School Funding Must End

P&C Federation extends its support to the Australian Education Union's (AEU) Fair Funding Now campaign launched 'Today' in Canberra. This campaign for fair funding for our public schools has garnered support from public school principals, teachers and peak parent bodies from throughout Australia.

Fair Funding Now stated, "Our children only get one chance at an education and the political leaders need to hear how important the funding of public schools is to the community."

P&C President Susie Boyd commented, "I encourage all Parents in NSW to join the Fair Funding Campaign (<http://www.fairfundingnow.org.au/>) to push for equitable funding for our public schools. To our parents, our children deserve an equitable public education system and only a well-resourced system can ensure our young people become effective contributing members of society."

Ms Boyd went on to say, "Any school funding model should prioritise the students most in need of assistance, most of whom are in the government school sector. Giving most funding increases to schools which are already better resourced and have less disadvantaged students is just irrational."

The growing inequality between have and have-not schools has become yet more evident with reports that seven exclusive private schools in New South Wales have collectively allocated \$365 million on new facilities – which is close to the \$390 million allocated by the State Government to fix the maintenance backlog at 2100 government schools.

Despite the evidence that Government Schools are far less resourced than independent schools, it is independent schools that will get the most funding increases under the Federal Government's Gonski 2.0 funding. 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.

Similarly, the Capital Grants Program allows non-government schools to access Federal funding for work on their infrastructure, while similar Federal funding is not available to public schools.

"If most infrastructure needs exist in public schools, then why are they not addressed by the Government?", Ms Boyd said. "The Federal Government's prioritisation of non-government schools is something that needs immediate reconsideration, and an equitable school funding system must be put in place."

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