



Australian Council
of State School
Organisations Inc.

Dear fellow parents and community members

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSso) is the peak public school parent organisation in Australia. Like you, we want to see a fairer funding model for young people in our public schools.

In February, the findings of the Gonski review were handed to the Federal Government. This review was the most comprehensive investigation of school funding our nation has conducted in almost 40 years. The findings clearly revealed that as a nation, Australia invests far too little in our schools, particularly our public schools; the current funding model is not transparent and it is in great need of repair. We urgently need a new funding model if all young people are to receive the high quality of education they deserve.

The current lack of funding is having significant consequences for students. There is a substantial gap between what students achieve in disadvantaged areas compared to those in more affluent areas. The gap is widening.

The exact amount of additional funding your school would receive is still to be finalised. It is estimated though that increase the Gonski panel suggests translates to an average of \$1,500 per student extra per year in public schools.

Imagine what your school could do if you were to receive that sort of additional money into your school budget. It could be spent in the areas that make a real difference for students such as smaller class sizes, more individual assistance for students with particular needs and additional staff or increased access to technology.

We need commitment from the Federal Government and the Opposition to a new funding model.

As partners in the education of young people in Australia, ACSso supports the national campaign run by the Australian Education Union (representing teachers and principals). This campaign aims to get a commitment to the funding and legislation based on the Gonski recommendations before the end of 2012. It is imperative that we act now.

We are asking you to please support this campaign. You can register your support at the campaign website igiveagonski.com.au. It is quick and easy but vitally important for the future of our nation.

We would also encourage you to contact your federal MP directly. Send them an email, text, tweet or put a message on their Facebook page.

If you would like more information about the Gonski review you can find it at the Federal Government's website <http://www.schoolfunding.gov.au/>.

Our public school students need everyone to take action; we encourage you to **giveagonski**; and join us in this campaign.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Garrigan', is written over a light blue circular watermark.

Peter Garrigan - President