



Australian Council of State School Organisations

One voice for every child in public education

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Labor: The promise and potential for Public Schools

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) welcomes today's announcement from the Federal Opposition promising an additional \$14 billion for public education if it is successful at the next election.

It is good to note that this is as a welcome follow-on to the recent pre-election announcement from the Opposition offering expanding access to two-years of pre-school early childhood education; a provision that's well recognised as vital foundation to a child's future success.

"In excess of 2.53 million of the nation's young people attend our public schools and early childhood education; this includes the highest proportion of students with the highest additional needs. It is paramount that education funding is targeted to support those who have the most to gain from education – our young people in public schools" commented ACSSO President, Phillip Spratt

"ACSSO will continue to lobby to ensure the opportunity of additional resourcing is allocated to where it can make the greatest difference to the lives of our children and their families

"Whilst we acknowledge additional teacher time and support can be essential, we believe that with the promise of additional funding there are areas of education policy that need review - such as the six additional loadings to address disadvantage across the nation. There is also the potential in any review to address the scope of a new seventh loading to address psycho-social trauma issues experienced by students that can provide tangible and meaningful support in schools for trauma informed practice"

"The value of Family Engagement in education is another key point of interest for parents with over 50 years of research and best practice to draw on. The Gonski 2.0 panel's findings amplify this point and we look forward to the opportunity within the promise of additional funding to build on this for the benefit of our children and their parents in enhancing their future educational opportunities"

"Our public schools are increasingly and proudly the first choice for our children's future and ACSSO will continue to lobby for Fair, Simple and Transparent education policy – with funding based on true need and no special deals for exclusive sectors. We call upon all sides of politics to unite in fully and properly supporting our nation's public-school students, families and communities." concluded Mr Spratt

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