

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS

(ACSSO)

The National Voice of Parents of Children in Australia's Public Schools and their School Communities

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FEDERAL FUNDING TO STATE SCHOOLS GETS WORSE

State schools have received less than private schools as a result of the Federal Government's guidelines released today by Education Minister Brendan Nelson.

ACSSO, the national peak body representing parents in government schools and their school communities, has expressed its disappointment that percentage increases in funding to state schools over the four period will be only 27% compared with a 47% increase for independent schools and 39% for the Catholic sector.

ACSSO President Judith Bundy today described the new funding formula as "favouritism towards the private system and a formula for cementing privilege"

ACSSO does not accept that public education is simply a state matter. In education matters the Federal Government must accept that it has a primary obligation to state schools.

ACSSO also finds it unacceptable that the Federal Government should spend more than \$5 billion each year in order to encourage students into private schools, Ms Bundy said.

She said parents of Australia should realize that the Minister's funding formula locked in payments to all school sectors for a fixed period of four years.

CONTACT :
Judith Bundy
President
ACSSO
08 82784363
jbundy@auslib.com.au
