

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS

The national voice of parents of children in Australia's public schools and their school communities

MEDIA RELEASE – 7 May 2004

Government Parents Body Looks For Education Improvements In Federal Budget

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) is looking for major improvements in next Tuesday's Federal Budget (11/5/04).

ACSSO President Judith Bundy said, "The parents of Australia want better education services rather than minor tax cuts"

Specifically ACSSO has nominated six key areas where the budget needs to make extra provision:

First, programs which help parents and schools to work more closely together must be appropriately funded.

"That parent school partnership is one of the most crucial factor in successful education." Ms Bundy said.

Second, the Federal Government must provide supplementary assistance to help lower class sizes in early years of primary schooling.

"Early childhood education requires good parenting programs, better community health services and the provision of preschool education for every child."

Third, the budget must make extra provision for students with disabilities both within public schools and to assist later school- to- work transition.

Fourth, school- to- work transition must be funded adequately for all public school students no matter where they live.

Fifth, language teaching and learning needs to be funded so it becomes a central part of our school curriculum.

"We are a trading nation and it is essential that our students work competently in their own language as well as the language of our neighbours and new immigrants."

Sixth, all Australian students who qualify must be able to find university places and appropriate further education training. To do this the Government need to ensure that there is adequate funding of HECS places.

Judith Bundy says that Australia's public education system needs funding and support so that it becomes the best choice for all our children.

For Further information and comment

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