

## **AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)**

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

MEDIA RELEASE - Wednesday 12 May 2004

### **PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS WANT LONG TERM FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The peak Australian parents body for public schools, ACSSO, says Federal Government funding is still weighted against public schools which educate nearly 70% of Australian students.

ACSSO President Judith Bundy today called for all political parties to plan for education well beyond the coming election, including in their programs a plan to lift funds to public schools.

However, ACSSO says it will offer to assist the Federal Minister in his program to improve reporting from schools to parents about student performance.

"We are not interested in rough and ready bill-board type advertising by schools, which can be misleading. We do see real value in providing useful and meaningful information to parents about their children's learning progress."

Increased funding for literacy, numeracy and special learning has been welcomed by ACSSO.

"We will involve ourselves in these programs to ensure parental inputs and ideas are available to the Government" Judith Bundy says.

Cuts to apprenticeship programs were definitely not supported by ACSSO.

"Australia will be facing skill shortages unless we make the pathways into apprenticeships easier and more attractive" Judith Bundy says.

She described vocational training and re-entry of all Australians into the education and training system as a key thrust in ACSSO's policies.

"We will be approaching the Federal Minister Brendon Nelson about programs to enable a sharper focus on this area."

FOR FURTHER COMMENT

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