

MEDIA RELEASE
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THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL
ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)

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PARENTS WELCOME RUDD'S EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Australia's peak public school parents' body, ACSSO, has praised Labor leader Kevin Rudd's decision to make education a key issue for the coming Federal election.

ACSSO President Jenny Branch said Kevin Rudd had recognized that education reform was central to Australia's future economic and social prosperity.

"We are impressed that Kevin Rudd sees education as an investment not just a cost burden," Ms Branch said.

International benchmarks have shown that Australia is going backwards in terms of investment in tertiary education, early childhood and productivity gains, ACSSO says.

Ms Branch criticized the nit picking and tinkering that has been a feature of the education debate so far.

"Parents are looking for comprehensive statements about future policies not one-liners based on political polling," she said, "Kevin Rudd and Labor have taken the first step and we look forward to the Government's comprehensive policies in this area."

Ms Branch said both parties will need to take parent organisations into their confidence and involve parents at an early stage of policy development.

"We want a new parent-school partnership in education planning and we insist on being consulted", she said.

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