

MEDIA RELEASE

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Professional support should accompany body image packs

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) commends the Federal Government on the provision of 'Respect Every Body' posters and learning resources to schools.

Responding to the announcement today, ACSSO President Peter Garrigan said, "There is considerable evidence to support that body image rates as a major concern amongst our young people."

"Current research also supports that this is one of the top themes underlying mental health issues experienced by adolescents and young adults."

The Minister commented in his release today that, "The resources are not an additional part of the curriculum, but can be incorporated into existing subjects such as health or physical education."

ACSSO believes further support is required. "This issue requires appropriate professional support; our call for trained psychologists in the form of school counsellors continues to go unanswered. With the rise in mental illness in our young people we owe it to them to support them in their most vulnerable years."

"The 'Respect Every Body' packs are a positive step forward. We ask that the government support this with personnel able to sensitively guide those young people most affected by the issues that will emerge from the discussions."

For further comment:

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Australian Council of State School Organisations

<http://www.acsso.org.au>