

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

PARENTS PRAISE EXTRA FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The peak body for parents in public schools has praised the Australian Government for injecting new capital funding into state schools.

This follows announcements by the Prime Minister John Howard that an extra \$181 million will be added to the \$700 million already spent under the Investing in Our Schools programme.

ACSSO President Jennifer Branch said the scheme was an excellent way to ensure that parents and parent organisations had a real say in setting school priorities. She described the scheme as a real example of effective parent-school partnerships.

Mrs Branch said ACSSO saw great value in a scheme which encouraged principals and parents to plan and work together on projects which would make a major difference to their school. In smaller towns, those projects could even have beneficial effects for the whole community.

"It is also a fair scheme," Mrs Branch said "because the submissions from each school are assessed by independent panels composed of principals and state representatives of ACSSO, the national parent body."

She said ACSSO would also ask for the Government to keep the \$150,000 limit per school rather than lower it to \$100,000.

"We are firm believers that you should stick to the same rules throughout a programme like this." She said. "Schools and parents need to plan ahead and would not welcome any last minute changes."

Tuesday 20th February 2006

Contact:

Jenny Branch

ACSSO President

0417 381 721

Hon Terry Aulich

Executive Director

0407 106 836

executive.officer@acssso.org.au

