

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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PARENTS EXCITED BY LABOR'S MOMENTOUS FAMILY BUREAU DECISION

Parent organisations have praised Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard's announcement that Labor will fund a dedicated Bureau to build closer ties between parents and schools across the country.

The Government will provide \$800,000 over four years to the national parents organisations to conduct on the ground research, encourage parents and schools to work together and to spread best practice in family school partnerships.

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) which represents parents in public schools, described the Government's decision as momentous.

"This is the most significant development for many years in improving the culture and performance of Australian education", ACSSO President Jenny Branch said.

"A clear indication that the Government sets great value on helping families, schools and communities work together more effectively."

Speaking after a parents forum in Canberra today, Ms Branch said the Deputy Prime Minister's decision would open the doors for improvements in the lives of young people, teachers and families.

The Bureau will conduct research about ways to improve relationships between schools, families and the community and will identify schools where good relationships have been established. It will also promote the value of parents being involved closely with the education of their children.

"We recognize the immense importance of the teacher's role and we want to assist and partner where we can," Ms Branch said. "We are particularly interested in helping in places where parents and students are disengaged and do not connect with their school."

"We are looking forward to meeting with our colleagues in the principals associations and teacher unions to progress the Bureau's offerings as soon as possible." She said.

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