



# MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

## **ACSSO WELCOMES GREENS' COMMITMENT TO END PUBLIC SCHOOL FEES AND PROVIDE BACK-TO-SCHOOL ALLOWANCE**

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) applauds the Greens' bold proposal to eliminate public school fees (voluntary contributions and subject fees) and introduce an \$800 annual back-to-school allowance for every child in a public school.

These policies, costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), represent a \$10 billion investment in public education. The end of public-school fees is projected to cost \$2.4 billion over the forward estimates, while the back-to-school allowance accounts for \$7.6 billion.

ACSSO's CEO Dianne Giblin, said:

*"We have consistently advocated for equitable access to quality public education. This initiative directly addresses the financial strain parents are experiencing, with average public-school cost averaging \$500 annually."*

Recent reports highlight the growing burden on families, even in what is meant to be a "free" public education system. The Greens' proposal offers a lifeline to parents already stretched thin by the cost-of-living crisis, making public education truly accessible for all.

The \$800 allowance per child, starting with a \$400 payment mid-year in 2025 and transitioning to the full amount in 2026, promises significant relief for families. ACSSO welcomes this initiative, which could ease the pressure of purchasing uniforms, devices, and other essentials.

"An average family with two children stands to be \$2,500 better off annually under this proposal," added Mrs Giblin. *"This policy could make a real difference for families deciding whether they can afford extracurricular opportunities or even basic resources."*

ACSSO has long highlighted the funding inequities in Australia's education system, which sees significant resources directed toward private schools. This policy represents a critical step in rebalancing the scales and encouraging greater support for the public education system.

The Greens' pledge aligns with ACSSO's ongoing call for increased public education funding to ensure every child has access to high-quality schooling, regardless of their background or postcode.

While ACSSO welcomes the policy, we recognise the economic challenges and potential debates around funding. The Greens propose a super-profits tax to cover the costs, a measure ACSSO supports as a fair mechanism to invest in the nation's future.

"In challenging economic times, investing in education is not just a cost—it's the foundation for Australia's long-term prosperity. Supporting families and schools is the smart and equitable choice," said Mrs Giblin.

ACSSO calls on all parties to prioritise public education in the upcoming election. We urge bipartisan support for measures that make public schools genuinely free and accessible.

*One voice for every child in government education*



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*"Parents are telling us they are struggling. It's time to remove barriers to education and support families to ensure every child can thrive and be the best version of themselves they can be" concluded Mrs Giblin.*

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*One voice for every child in government education*