



# Australian Council of State School Organisations

*One voice for every child in public education*

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## School Funding Betrayal

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) is appalled with news of today's announcement of a special funding deal just for non-government schools.

ACSSO will continue to lobby for Fair, Simple and Transparent education policy – with funding based on true need and no special deals. There are complex policy issues at play in the discussions with states and territories around the new funding model and the implementation of the recommendations of the Gonski panel's review to achieve educational excellence in Australian schools. Today's announcement with its betrayal of public schools will have done real harm in moving this forward.

"With a new special deal just for private schools the Government appears to have abandoned all pretext of caring about the interests of the students, parents, staff and wider communities of our nation's fully inclusive public schools and has instead pandered to the interests of the entitled want of Government subsidised private schools." Was the response today of the President of ACSSO, Phillip Spratt.

'If the Government is at all serious about a fair go for all, and better educational outcomes for those with the most to gain from high-quality education, we can't wait to hear about the extra pro-rata contribution the Government will be making to our nation's public schools.

'With so much on the table, now is the time for our state and territory governments to rebel and refuse to sign the new National School Reform Agreements until our nation's public schools get their fair share of Commonwealth funding; or at the very least cut their contribution to the non-government schools in their jurisdictions to reflect the new gold-plated special deal just for private schools.

"As advocates for public education we look forward to meeting with the Minister at the earliest opportunity to learn what he has in mind to restore the balance and sense of fair go where we can continue to put the case for the vital need to fully support our nation's public schools and not the entitled want of the private sector; with so much at stake for our children's future it has to be right" concluded Mr Spratt

For further information

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**MEDIA RELEASE**