



# MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

## Media Release

### For Immediate Release

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### **Damien Ellwood, President, Welcomes Landmark School Funding Announcement**

Last week's announcement by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese represents a pivotal moment for Australia's education system. Damien Ellwood, President of the Australian Council of State School Organisations, has warmly welcomed the federal government's Better and Fairer Schools Agreements announcement and commitment to fully funding public schools in Victoria and South Australia, marking a significant step toward ensuring all students have the opportunity to thrive.

We acknowledge the increased public school funding commitment of the Federal Government to 25 per cent of the School Resourcing Standard (SRS). It is also welcome news from the Prime Minister that the new funding Agreements will remove the provision allowing states to claim 4 per cent of public school funding for indirect school costs such as capital depreciation and replace it with 4 per cent of recurrent funding on eligible SRS expenses.

"We congratulate the Prime Minister and the federal government on this critical investment in the future of our young people. This funding is a reflection of the tireless advocacy of teachers, principals, and parents who have long championed the need for fair and equitable resourcing in public education, and the willingness of politicians and public servants in the Federal, state and territory Government to negotiate and work together towards a very important goal. Their dedication to our schools and our children has been instrumental in achieving this outcome," Mr. Ellwood said.

The commitment to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard is essential to achieving key benchmarks, including the goal of 80% of students meeting minimum literacy and numeracy standards. While there is still much to be done to ensure all students reach their full potential, today's announcement is a meaningful step forward in helping our nation's young people become the best versions of themselves.

"As an organisation committed to equity and access in education, we are excited about the opportunities this funding creates for schools to address critical areas, from resourcing and infrastructure to student wellbeing. We applaud this progress and look forward to supporting its implementation in collaboration with educators, families, and communities. Going into a federal election, we hope that increased funding for public schools will be supported by all politicians."

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Mr. Ellwood emphasised the importance of this moment as a foundation for ongoing reform. “This announcement is cause for celebration, but it’s also a reminder of the work still ahead to ensure every Australian child has access to the education they deserve. ACSSO will continue to work with the Federal Government and our state school organisations to better understand these important reforms and keep track of developments in public schools. Together, we can build a future where no student is left behind.”

For further information, please contact:

Damien Ellwood, President:           0419 587 719

Dianne Giblin, CEO                     0418 470 604

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