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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Improving Hygiene...Maybe

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) is astonished at yesterday's announcement of the \$10 million relief to non-government schools. Whilst the government media release has suggested that this money cover the cost of additional hygiene measures, we see no real accountability of how this money is to be used – indeed this money could be perceived as a bribe offered in order to secure the return of at least 50% of students.

'It shocks me that non-government schools are being used again as the wedge to set the Federal agenda, let alone the implication that these schools are unable to open when they cannot prioritise mandatory essentials such as soap and hand sanitiser' said ACSSO President Andrew Bidwell. 'What's next? Will these schools be offered dedicated funding for toilet paper and tissues? Where is all the money going? Are they able to fulfil their funding agreements and remain viable businesses, or should we expect them to stumble between ongoing handouts!'

This media release also further divides the government and non-government sectors. 'The Federal Government has claimed they have been consistent in their approach, yet we see ongoing conversational inequality between the different school sectors. Schools of all types are struggling and ACSSO demands that support is always offered fairly across all sectors.

If the Minister is true to his word with his concerns for the young people who are vulnerable and at risk of disengaging with school, then surely this money would be better invested in the hands of those young people in our public education system.'

For any further comment

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