

# Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

*One voice for every child in public education*



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## MEDIA RELEASE

### SCHOOLS RECOVERY NEEDS FURTHER FUNDING INJECTIONS

"We are so pleased to see that the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education finally has some level of certainty"

This was the view on Tuesday evening of ACSSO President Sharron Healy after listening to the 2021- 2022 Budget speech.

"For so many years this funding has been given an annual reprieve, and this Budget has seen an investment commitment for at least the next four years" she continued. "Not only is this investment key for laying foundations for our children, but it allows centres to plan and offer staffing guarantees -a sound investment in our future."

We also pleasingly note an additional \$10.7 million over 4 years to develop and produce additional resources for the Respectful Relationships programs in schools.

Following an extremely traumatic year with both the bushfires and Covid-19, and knowing that youth suicide is on the rise, we also are delighted to see the investment of \$2.3 billion supporting the reform of the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention system. This will make considerable difference to the currently over-stretched supports and critical services.

We understand this is a budget with record investment and a recovery plan, however, if we reflect on our National Survey of families from last year it is obvious a number of key elements are missing.

In this every changing world, access to technology at home as well as at school is essential – the mid-year budget will need to address this. It will also need to understand, the funding war is not quite over – communities are stretched – we need great government schools to ensure students have the same opportunities as the others have – in classrooms fitted out to suit the needs of today's learner.

We must invest in our youth.

For further comment

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