



MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

ACSSO Applauds Historic Funding Agreement for Northern Territory Government Schools

Today, the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) celebrates a significant milestone towards equitable education funding with the new school funding agreement between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments. This landmark agreement will commit over \$1 billion in additional investment to public schools in the NT, targeting schools that face the most significant challenges and serve highly disadvantaged communities.

ACSSO President Damien Ellwood stated, "This funding agreement marks a crucial step towards fair and full funding for all government schools across the Northern Territory. It collectively recognises NT schools' unique challenges and the critical need for increased support."

ACSSO supports the agreement's potential to positively impact the future of NT's public education system. However, it urges both the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to ensure that any increase in funding meets the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) in a genuine and significant way. This funding should not be manipulated by accounting practices that obscure the full extent of funding required. Also, it should not include non-educational costs such as capital depreciation or transport that are unrelated to the SRS.

This is crucial for delivering the educational resources and support necessary to achieve the best outcomes for all students, particularly those most disadvantaged.

"We acknowledge that both governments have increased their investment and that the Commonwealth share of funding will increase from 20% to 40% of the SRS. The momentum towards fully funding every government school is encouraging. Every child in every school deserves equitable access to high-quality education, and we stand firm in our mission to advocate for that reality," added Damien Ellwood.

ACSSO appreciates the commitment shown by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Chief Minister Eva Lawler, Minister for Education Jason Clare, and Northern Territory Minister for Education Mark Monaghan in reaching this historic agreement.

We look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of this agreement and to continue advocating for full and fair funding for government schools across Australia.

We celebrate alongside the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations and their community and recognise their tireless efforts in providing practical assistance and advocacy.

For further comment:

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The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) is the peak national body representing the interests of government school students and families across Australia. ACSSO works collaboratively with the government, education stakeholders, and the community to promote public education's benefits and ensure every child has access to high-quality and equitable education opportunities.

The national voice for families, carers, and communities in government education