



# MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

## Welcomed Support for Public Schools

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) welcomes today's announcements by the Federal Opposition leader highlighting a commitment to invest a total of \$440 million of new money in education COVID-19 recovery.

"This announcement by Mr Albanese is a great step forward in assisting students to "bounce back" following the last two years of significant interruption," said Sharron Healy, ACSSO President.

"COVID 19 clearly highlighted the inequity that exists in the nation's schools and addressing that inequity is key. Our 2021 National Survey indicated that many families did not have the necessary resources for online learning to occur smoothly." she continued

"A promise to ensure all public schools have 100 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard is vitally important to assist the educational needs of all students as a result of the disruptions of COVID-19.

"COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the education of our children. To date, the long-term effects on children's academic achievement and social and emotional well-being are unclear, so, we are thrilled to see the additional monies targeting student well-being" Sharron continued. Our 2022 Back to School survey clearly indicated family concern regarding their child's mental health. There is clear evidence that COVID-19 has had an impact on students' well-being. These well-being measures, such as counsellors, psychologists, and sporting, camping and music programs, will aid in the reconnection and reengagement to school for young people. "It will also aid in relationship rebuilding between staff, students and families, a vital component for learning" Sharron added.

"Parents rate appropriate ventilation as the key concern for return to school. The commitment of \$50 million for items such as air purifiers, improved ventilation and outdoor classrooms, will go a long way to ensuring students and staff can be as safe as possible."

The commitment of \$188 million for public school capital works in 2022-23 will start the process of restoring capital works investment and enabling schools to offer students the ability to learn in modern, COVID-safe and fit for purpose facilities.

"We are pleased to see a promise of an increase in investment in public education and response to the well-being needs of our young people" Mrs Healy concluded.

For comment

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*One voice for every child in government education*