



MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

ACSSO Welcomes Government Commitments on School Funding

ACSSO President Damien Ellwood today welcomed the commitments from both the Commonwealth and West Australian Governments to address the funding needs of government schools. They mark an important step towards meeting the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), * ensuring a brighter future for Australian education.

Noting that Federal Education Minister Jason Clare has proposed a meaningful increase in the Commonwealth's contribution to government school funding, Mr Ellwood commented that the "proposed increase in contribution from 20% to 22.5% would work towards ensuring that every government school in Australia receives full funding, in accordance with the SRS".

"This emphasises the Commonwealth Government's commitment to the SRS. More generally, there is a need for collaboration between Commonwealth and state and territory governments to increase investment and to achieve the 100% SRS target." Mr Ellwood continued, "Governments will need to further increase their investment in education to ensure that the goal of 100% SRS funding is met".

While appreciating the Commonwealth's enhanced support, he also called attention to the need for similar funding agreements with other state and territory governments that include new and substantial funding. He emphasised that state and territory governments' contributions should be real and significant rather than inflated through non-educational costs like capital depreciation or transport that are not related the SRS.

"The Commonwealth's increased funding sets an improved standard for genuine investment in education, and I urge the WA Government to ensure that their financial contributions are equally sincere to meet the 100% SRS target".

"This investment is critical to empowering educators and providing equitable educational opportunities to all students across Australia. It's a pivotal moment for the nation's future, and ACSSO remains committed to advocating for full and transparent funding in education," he said.

ACSSO is calling for a genuine commitment towards full funding, which goes beyond just fulfilling financial obligations. We believe it is a moral imperative to ensure that every child has access to education, which will enable them to identify and build on their strengths and become the best version of themselves. This will allow upward mobility throughout our community and support future economic growth.

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* *The SRS is an agreed estimate by the Federal and state governments of how much total public funding a school needs to meet the educational needs of its students so that at least 80% of students are achieving above the national minimum standard in the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) reading and numeracy assessments across 3 consecutive years.*

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