



THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
LEADER OF THE HOUSE
MEMBER FOR STURT

Our Ref BR13-004572

The Hon Peter Chandler MLA
Minister for Education
Parliament House,
GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Minister

I am writing in relation to the new funding arrangements for Northern Territory government schools over the forward estimates period.

As you would be aware, our Government is committed to ensuring funding certainty for all schools across all states, territories and sectors over the forward estimates period. For the Northern Territory government sector, this equates to the reinstatement of an additional \$272.5 million in funding removed by the previous government. This commitment by the Government exceeds our election promise to match the funding envelope of the previous Government over the forward estimates.

To provide further certainty, the table below outlines the total Commonwealth funding for your Government sector over the forward estimates period and by calendar year.

Total Commonwealth Funding [#] - Calendar Year					
Year	2014 (\$'000)	2015 (\$'000)	2016 (\$'000)	2017 half (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
Amount	127,694	139,992	153,656	84,624	505,966

Total Commonwealth Funding [#] - Financial Year					
Year	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
Amount	63,847*	133,843	146,824	161,452	505,966

[#] the final payments will be updated annually according to the most current enrolment and student characteristic data. *amount represents funding from 1 January 2014 and does not include residual National Partnership payments from the 2013 calendar year.

To maintain consistency across all other jurisdictions, it is also the Government's intention to terminate the Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities National Partnership and the Rewards for Great Teachers National Partnership on 31 December 2013.

Upon cessation of the National Partnerships, remaining funding will be redirected to the new funding arrangements from 2014.

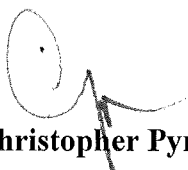
Officials from my department have provided officials from your department the full profile of this funding over the forward estimates. On this basis, I am seeking your acknowledgement of the additional funding committed by the Australian Government to the Northern Territory, and of the Government's intention to terminate the before mentioned National Partnerships on 31 December 2013.

The Government recognises that states and territories remain responsible for their schools and that all non-government schools should maintain their independence and autonomy. In 2014 it is the Government's intention, following consultation, to amend the command and control aspects of the *Australian Education Act 2013* to ensure jurisdictions maintain authority for their schools.

Given our joint commitment to addressing student need and improving educational outcomes for all students, it is my expectation that your Government would continue its funding effort across schools in the Northern Territory through the forward estimates period.

As the Minister for Education, I remain committed to building a world-class education system based on the quality of teaching, a robust curriculum, increased school autonomy and parental engagement. I look forward to continuing to work with you to implement these important measures.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Pyne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Pyne MP

10 DEC 2013