



# *Australian Education Union*

## *Federal Office*

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14 November 2014

Mr Nicholas Craft  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Select Committee into the Abbott Government's Budget Cuts  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Craft

### **Re: Senate Select Committee into the Abbott Government's Budget Cuts – Question on Notice**

I write in response to the Committee's request to provide information regarding a question on notice from the Inquiry Hearing on 16 October.

Senator Urquhart requested details of the financial impact of the Abbott Government's plan to abandon the Gonski school funding model on the states and territories.

In our response to Senator Urquhart at the hearing we indicated that, in the absence of detailed Government financial data, it would be difficult to provide a comprehensive breakdown of the impact on the states and territories.

The following is a summary of the information we have available.

The projected total reduction in funding over 2018-2020 is \$2.7 billion in government schools, while non-government schools will lose \$1.2 billion over that same period.

In South Australia that represents a funding reduction of \$335 million across the two years, assuming a CPI increase of 2.5%. (University of Adelaide, *Impacts of the 2014-15 Federal Budget Measures on South Australia*, October 2014; p.57)

In New South Wales, it is estimated that the cost to NSW schools of abandoning the final two years of Gonski funding will be \$1.2 billion in 2018 and 2019, with government schools losing \$944 million, Catholic schools losing \$209 million and Independent schools losing \$120 million. (NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli, Media Release, *Federal Government must not abandon NSW schools*, 14 May 2014)

In Tasmania, Education Minister Jeremy Rockcliff has stated publicly that Tasmanian schools would lose \$70 million through the Abbott Government's abandonment of the final two years of Gonski funding. (The Examiner, 28 May 2014)

In Queensland, Education Queensland's analysis, obtained through a Right to Information request, reveals that over the period 2014-15 to 2024-25, there will be approximately \$6 billion less funding available to Queensland schools under the new arrangements than would have been available under the prior offer. Queensland's government schooling sector will lose approximately \$3.7 billion in federal funding over that period, with the non-government schooling sector losing \$2.3 billion. (Queensland DETE, RTI Application 340/5/3345 Document No. 35; p3)

In light of the lack of information provided by the Abbott Government, this is the best we are able to provide.

Yours sincerely

Angelo Gavrielatos  
Federal President