

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on School Funding
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Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding

I am a qualified school teacher who is currently not teaching due to raising two small children. I have two girls, a 2 1/2 year old and a 1 year old. I was a permanent teacher for 3 years and then a reliever for 3 years at Kingston Community School, which is 45 kilometres from our farm in the South East of South Australia. This is the school that my two girls will eventually access by bus, starting with my eldest daughter in 2017.

There are several reasons I feel that the Gonski funding model should be implemented in full.

Firstly, Kingston Community School was earmarked to receive approximately 1.8 million dollars through the Gonski funding model. I experienced first hand the benefits that an SSO made to those struggling when I taught Year 8 English. So I can only imagine the benefit extra funding into more School Support Staff hours would make to those students falling behind.

Our school has many students from disadvantaged backgrounds and so investing more money in providing: extra teachers for smaller classes; more teacher training to cope with the challenges these students face; and more one-on-one tuition, would help make huge improvements in the potential outcomes for these students.

Lastly, having now become a mother, I feel even more passionate about how important a good education is, regardless of where you are born or how affluent

your parents are. Our school already does a good job with the modest funding it already receives and the teachers are passionate about what they do. But an amazing education is the best thing we can do for the future of our country, and I believe that we could never put too much money towards creating the best schools, teachers and young people. I hope that by the time my daughters reach school age we will be seeing the benefit at our school that this type of funding would provide.

Submitted by Amanda Stewart, Teacher, Parent and Community Member

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