

Committee Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on School Funding  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

## Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding

Dear Committee,

I help out on the P&C of my local school as much as I can. I passionately believe that every child deserves the best education Australia can provide, and would like to take this opportunity to present my case for implementing the Gonski measures in full, as they were taken to the 2013 Federal election.

As I understand it, the Abbott Government has so far committed less than one third of Gonski funding in states and territories with signed agreements, and written a blank cheque that may not even reach schools for those that didn't (NT, QLD and WA). With the 2014 May Budget looming, it is crunch time for Gonski.

Parents and staff in my child's school have had to invest significant time and energy into fund-raising in order to purchase books, equipment, learning resources and even teacher professional development.

We know improved funding makes a difference. Our school benefited from the Commonwealth's National Partnership funding. This injection of funds helped provide targeted programs and coaching that have demonstrated real improvements in student literacy, numeracy and well-being outcomes.

Six years of Gonski funding would benefit our school, even beyond physical resources.

There should be absolutely no difference in our expectations for the kind of education our children receive, regardless of the school they attend. Every child should enjoy the opportunity to meet their potential and excel in their studies. Gonski funding will allow schools to move beyond meeting basic literacy and numeracy standards toward developing creative, innovative thinkers and motivated, productive people.

Children admire teachers who are clever, energetic and find exciting ways to help them explore, discover and learn. Gonski will help us invest in our teachers, by supporting ongoing coaching and mentoring, planning, and professional development: encouraging them to be life-long learners, and sustaining their passion to pass it on to our children.

With many parts of the nation, including Victoria, in the slow lane of the 'two speed economy', excellence in education is essential to elevating educational, social and economic outcomes for all Australians. If we invest in our children, we invest in our future.

So regardless of what you call it - National Education Reform Agreement, Better Schools, Gonski - it is critical that education funding become fair and balanced, for the sake of our children, their educators and the nation as a whole.

Submitted by Paul Magarey

Friday 14 March 2014