

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

I am recently retired after a 38 year career in public schools in South Australia. I taught Science (speciality in Physics) and Maths as well as in various other curriculum areas as an advanced skills teacher. My final leadership position was as an assistant principal at a school recognised internationally as taking a leading role in developing innovative and effective pedagogy and curriculum at senior high school level. Our sons were successfully educated in the SA government system.

The Gonski study recognised the need for adequate resourcing and equitable funding across the education system. The Australian private/public system is clearly not equitably funded according to need. It is quite unique in international terms. The Gonski model addresses this issue and its implementation, with other measures, would be likely to lead to an improvement in international comparative studies and social outcomes. The strategies that lead to effective schools are well researched and documented. The current government appears to be trying to ignore research and entrench advantage rather than address the real issues. In my opinion, this will exacerbate any problems, not solve them. The long term consequences for all Australians are worrying.

Submitted by Peter van der Zwaag, Community Member  
Thursday 13 March 2014