



**THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION  
LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

Our Ref BR13-004572

The Hon Nick McKim MP  
Minister for Education and Skills  
Level 9 Marine Board Building  
1 Franklin Wharf  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Minister

I am writing in relation to funding to Tasmanian government schools under the new funding arrangements over the forward estimates.

As you would be aware, our Government is committed to ensuring funding certainty for all schools across all states, territories and sectors.

I write to inform you that the Australian Government's intention is to consider Tasmania a non-participating state under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) as it has not met the requirements as set out in Section 14 of the Act. This approach would not affect our funding commitment made to Tasmanian schools over the forward estimates, which matches that of the previous government. Rather, it represents a reduction in compliance burden and red tape.

Senior officials from my Department are ready to consult should you or your Department have any specific enquiries in relation to this matter. For your information, the table below outlines the total Commonwealth forward estimates and calendar year funding profile for the Tasmanian government sector.

Total Commonwealth Funding <sup>#</sup> - Calendar Year					
Year	2014 (\$'000)	2015 (\$'000)	2016 (\$'000)	2017 half (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
Amount	151,379	162,694	176,498	95,285	585,856

Total Commonwealth Funding <sup>#</sup> - Financial Year					
Year	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
Amount	75,689*	157,036	169,596	183,534	585,856

<sup>#</sup> 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.

Given my Government's commitment to recognise that states and territories remain responsible for their schools and should maintain their independence and autonomy, it is my intention, following consultation, to amend the command and control aspects of the Act to ensure jurisdictions maintain authority for their schools.

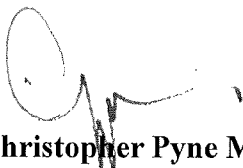
To maintain consistency across all other jurisdictions, and consistent with the previous Government, it is also the Government's intention to terminate the Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities National Partnership and the Rewards for Great Teachers National Partnership on 31 December 2013.

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

If you have any questions in relation to our ongoing commitment to Tasmanian schools please do not hesitate to contact my office.

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 'Chris Pyne', with a large circular flourish at the start.

**Christopher Pyne MP**

**10 DEC 2013**