

Gonski

FACT SHEET



Gonski under threat – Campaign update July 2014

The Abbott Government announced in the 2014 Budget it will not deliver the final two years of Gonski funding or honour the five signed agreements already in place.

That is a major blow for teachers, parents and students across the country.

Gonski is all about ensuring the right resources are in every Australian school. But it will take the full six years of additional funding (2014-2019) to get all schools to level where they can meet the needs of all students.

In the first four years only one third of the Gonski funding is being delivered to schools across Australia.

Not having the full funding will make it impossible for schools to fully implement their plans to improve the education children receive. Those plans include:

- ✓ Reducing class sizes
- ✓ Expanding literacy and numeracy programs and employing additional specialist teachers
- ✓ Increasing the individual attention and support for students at risk
- ✓ Providing greater assistance to students with disabilities or special needs
- ✓ Improving the training and mentoring of teachers in schools
- ✓ Employing specialists such as speech pathologists and occupational therapists

Public school students the worst affected

All schools will be affected by the Abbott Government's cuts to Gonski. But it will be students in public schools that will be the worst affected.

That is because public schools educate a disproportionate number of students with higher needs. Public schools are also the only ones open to all students, in every community.

The Gonski Review made clear the vast bulk of the additional funding needed to go to public schools and it said the Federal Government that had to step up and end the underfunding of them.

Funding expert Dr Jim McMorrow calculated the Abbott Government's cut is over \$2 billion in one year alone – enough money to pay for three extra teachers in every public school in the nation.

Find out more: www.igiveagonski.com.au



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Students with disability still missing out

Prior to the election, the Coalition promised to lift the Gonski funding for students with disability in 2015 and make it needs-based.

Both sides of politics accepted that the current funding levels were totally inappropriate and as many as 100,000 students with disabilities were not receiving support.

The plan was to replace a temporary average amount of funding for each student with new arrangements that would see each student funded according to their needs.

Unfortunately, there was no additional funding for students with disability in the Budget and the new arrangements will not start in 2015.

We need to act

Convincing the Abbott Government that it has made the wrong decision on Gonski will require parents, teachers and principals to work together. We have to let them know that our children must not be denied the resources necessary to give them all a high quality education.

Please visit the Gonski website (www.igiveagonski.com.au) to find out what you can do to support the campaign and help ensure that schools and students do not miss out on the Gonski funding they need.

Please also pass on a copy of this fact sheet to your friends and colleagues and ask them to register their support for Gonski on the campaign website.



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