

The COAG Education Council
PO Box 202
Carlton South
Vic 3053



13 April 2018

Dear Education Council,

We write to you today on behalf of principals, teachers, support staff and allied education professionals in our public school system who support the more than 2.5 million young people educated in our schools to learn and achieve their best.

We share a passion and commitment to ensuring that the needs of every child are met and they are able to succeed.

Fair and equitable schools funding based on student need is vitally important for all public schools to ensure that every child can access a high quality education in their local community.

Without a fairer schools funding model that is grounded in needs based funding, inequality will continue to grow. 83% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and 74% of students with disability are educated in public schools and face increasing achievement gaps. Our governments have a fundamental responsibility to provide the resources for schools to address student achievement gaps and to cater for those students who need extra help at school. That includes students who live in rural and remote locations, speak a language other than English or live in low socio-economic communities.

We, the undersigned, call on the Education Council to support Fair Funding Now for our schools and students. We call for:

1. The restoration of the \$1.9 billion cut from public schools in 2018 and 2019.
2. Any agreements struck between the Commonwealth and all states and territories to ensure that every school is funded to 100% of the School Resourcing Standard (SRS) by 2023 to meet the educational needs of all students.
3. Increased disability funding to cater for the actual costs of providing a high quality education to every student with disability.
4. The allocation by the Commonwealth of a capital funding stream for public schools as recommended by the Gonski Review.

We look forward to working with you on the critically important issue of schools funding.

Yours sincerely,
Correna Haythorpe

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Haythorpe".

Federal President
Australian Education Union

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Authorised by Susan Hopgood, Federal Secretary, Australian Education Union, 120 Clarendon St, Southbank 3006.