

# GONSKI FACT SHEET



## FOUR THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT GONSKI SCHOOLS FUNDING

### WHAT GONSKI MEANS

Australia remains a high-achieving nation in education but our overall performance has slipped in the last decade – at the same time as schools funding has become less equitable.

The Gonski Review found that Australia is investing too little in schools, and that the way we distribute the money is neither fair nor effective.

Students in disadvantaged areas are up to three years behind those of the same age who live in wealthy areas. One in five 15-year-old students does not have basic reading skills – the kind they will need to apply for and keep a job.

The Gonski funding arrangements are designed to ensure that the right resources are in every school to give children the individual attention and support they need to excel.

The six-year Gonski agreements the Federal Government signed with five States and Territories began in 2014 and were designed to bring schools up to an appropriate level of resources in six years.

### GONSKI IS GETTING RESULTS

Where Gonski funding is being delivered it is having a significant impact on what students achieve.

Schools are able to provide:

- Smaller class sizes
- Extra literacy and numeracy programs
- Speech therapists and psychologists
- More one-on-one support for struggling kids
- Better training for teachers

### THE THREAT TO GONSKI

The Federal Government has refused to honour the signed Gonski agreements or even require State and Territory Governments to spend the Gonski funding on schools.

Its refusal to pay its share of the last two years of Gonski funding will leave schools across the country without the resources they need to educate every child to a high level.

This decision will cut \$2.8 billion from public schools alone – enough funding to pay for more than 20,000 teachers.

### WITHOUT GONSKI SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND

Gonski is all about bringing every school up to the level where it has the resources to properly educate every child.

Without the full funding, children in schools will continue to miss out on the support and attention they need to reach their potential.

The worst-affected will be the ones who stand to gain the most from Gonski: children with disability, those from disadvantaged and non-English speaking backgrounds and Aboriginal students.

We cannot as a nation accept a situation where some students are educated in schools which are properly resourced while others are held back by a lack of resources.

**All governments and all political parties need to support this once-in-a-generation opportunity to work together and properly resource our schools.**

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