

GONSKI FACT SHEET



GONSKI AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

OUR HUGE UNMET NEED IN DISABILITY EDUCATION

Students with disability deserve the same chance to learn and be part of school life as other students.

Schooling can prepare them for work or further education, but only if the resources are available in schools to support and educate them.

Research shows at least 100,000 students with disability are not getting any funded support in our schools – that's one-third of the total. The number could be even higher but data collected by schools on students with disability has not been released by the Federal Government.

The AEU national survey of teachers and principals this year showed:

- 79 per cent of principals say they do not have the resources they need to teach students with disability
- 62 per cent of teachers say the needs of students with disability at their school are not being properly met

Schools can't afford to provide the equipment, aides, specialist support and ongoing training teachers need to ensure students with disability can get a good education.

Every year that goes by without enough funding, another group of students with disability misses out.

It is an unacceptable situation that is putting intolerable pressure on teachers and denying these children their basic right to a quality education.

HOW GONSKI WILL HELP

The Gonski Review recommended schools should receive additional funding (called a loading) for all students with disability to cover the extra costs of educating them.

This recognised the pressure on schools and current inadequate levels of funding which vary widely between State and Territory governments.

The former Labor Government agreed to fund all students with disability. But due to the absence of consistent definitions, it put in place an interim loading that only provided Gonski funding for students with disability who were already eligible for State or Territory government assistance.

BROKEN PROMISES ON DISABILITY

At the last election the Federal Coalition fully supported the plan for delivering Gonski funding to students with disability.

They said the loading eligibility would change in 2015 to ensure schools were funded for **all** students with disability who required assistance.

That never happened. Now the Federal Government is saying all students will be covered from 2016 but it has not budgeted the necessary funding to help the one third or more of students currently missing out.

We need to send a message to the Federal Government that they must keep their promise and take the lead in ensuring students with disability don't keep missing out. States and Territories must also commit to properly resourcing our schools for disability.

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