VICTORIA'S SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS DESERVE BETTER

Victorian public schools have the lowest level of government funding per student in Australia and too many children are missing out as a result.

Children in disadvantaged areas are up to three years behind those of the same age who live in wealthy areas.

Gonski funding will mean more resources distributed to schools based on student need.

That will help lift overall achievement levels and allow more assistance for students with higher needs such as those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disability or learning difficulties.

RESOURCES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Providing the right resources to schools allows teachers to better meet the needs of individual students.

With Gonski funding schools are able to provide:

- Smaller class sizes
- Extra literacy and numeracy programs
- Speech therapists and psychologists
- More in-class support for students who are struggling
- More assistance for students with disability or behavioural issues
- Additional training for teachers

This funding is already making a difference in other states who have been receiving it since 2014.

Principals report students are performing better and more are staying on at school to complete their studies.

VICTORIAN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN MISSING OUT ON GONSKI

The Victorian and Federal Governments signed a six year Gonski agreement in 2013 to ensure that, by 2019, all schools would be appropriately resourced.

But the Napthine Government failed to pass any of the funding on to public schools in 2014 – even going so far as to say there was no such thing as Gonski funding.

The Andrews Government started delivering the Gonski funding this year but many schools remain well behind where they should be.

In addition, both the Turnbull Government and the Andrews Government are refusing to commit to the funding beyond next year.

It is the last two years (2018 and 2019) when most of the funding is due to be delivered.

WHY WE NEED THE FULL SIX YEARS

Every Victorian child deserves a high quality education.

We cannot allow the situation to continue where some Victorian children are educated in schools that have the right resources while others are held back by a lack of funding.

The worst affected are our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

All we need is for Malcolm Turnbull and Daniel Andrews to honour the signed Gonski agreement and give schools the full resources that will make such a difference to the lives of Victorian children.

After all, what does it cost our country if we shortchange our children?

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