WA SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS DESERVE BETTER

Schools in other States are benefiting from Gonski funding but WA is falling behind.

Gonski funding is based on the principle that every child should have the same chance to receive a high quality education.

That means extra resources go directly to the schools with the greatest need.

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

Gonski funding can help schools close these gaps and lift standards. But instead of delivering extra funding, the WA Government has delivered cuts to school budgets and staff in schools.

RESOURCES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In states where Gonski funding is starting to be delivered 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

Principals are reporting fewer children are performing at below average levels in literacy and numeracy and more are staying on at school to complete their studies.

WHY WA IS MISSING OUT

Although no Gonski agreement was signed in WA, federal Gonski funding started flowing in 2014.

The Federal Government ensured that funding went to WA’s private schools, but failed to ensure the WA Government increased funding to public schools.

Instead the Barnett Government has imposed deep cuts.

These cuts mean fewer education assistants, teachers and support staff, a loss of funding for specialist programs, increased class sizes and less help for students with additional learning needs.

Now the Federal Government is saying Gonski will be axed altogether after 2017. Schools will only receive small increases that will not even cover rising costs.

WHY WE NEED THE FULL SIX YEARS OF GONSKI

The original Gonski plan was to ensure all schools were appropriately resourced after they received six years of funding.

Malcolm Turnbull needs to deliver his full share of the funding and work with Colin Barnett to ensure it is fully passed on and he contributes WA’s share.

We cannot allow the situation to continue where some WA kids are educated in schools that have the right resources while others are being held back because the school they attend cannot meet their needs.

We need all politicians to support this once-in-a-generation investment in the education of our children.