

GONSKI FACT SHEET



WHY LABOR NEEDS TO COMMIT TO THE FULL GONSKI

LABOR AND GONSKI

It was a Labor Government that set up the Gonski Review of schools funding in 2010.

It was a Labor Government that turned the Gonski recommendations into law, setting up the national arrangements that see all schools funded according to need for the first time.

It was a Labor Government that found the money for this historic investment, knowing it would lead to a stronger economy and a fairer society.

As Shadow Treasurer Chris Bowen said in April this year: *"Gonski runs through our DNA"*.

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

It increases equity in our school system by directing funding to individual schools, calculated according to student population and need.

Schools in regional areas; with high numbers of students from poor households; with disabilities or learning difficulties; with English as a second language and Indigenous students will get the biggest increases in funding.

It is about lifting overall achievement levels and also closing unacceptable gaps between students from different backgrounds.

Under the six-year Gonski agreements, the Federal Government provides 65 per cent of the extra funding over six years, beginning in 2014, with the States to provide 35 per cent.

Fully implemented it will bring all schools up to a level where they have the resources to educate all students to a high standard.

GONSKI IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Extra resources are already making a difference in schools which have received Gonski funding through:

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

Principals are already reporting improving student performance, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

GONSKI - WHAT'S AT STAKE NOW

The Coalition Government has failed to deliver on Gonski. It promised to honour the agreements but now wants to abandon the last two years – when most of the much-needed funding is to be delivered.

This decision will cut \$3.9 billion from schools, the equivalent of over 20,000 teachers from public schools alone.

The Coalition Government has also failed to make all States put in their share. No Gonski funding has so far been delivered in WA or the Northern Territory. Tasmania has cut more than it has invested.

Gonski funding is improving results and giving students a chance to succeed. But without the full six years of funding students across the country will continue to miss out. Labor must commit to delivering in full on this vital reform. As Bill Shorten says: *"What does it cost our country if we short-change our kids?"*

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