

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Additional Funding for the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory's peak body representing government school communities has continually lobbied for a true, needs based funding model based on funding levels recommended by the Gonski review in 2011.

Tabby Fudge, President of the NT Council of Government School Organisations, says "Indigenous students in the Territory suffer the highest levels of disadvantage in the developed world. It is vital we actually start to close the gap of disadvantage. All our kids deserve access to a quality education."

Ms Fudge says it is pleasing to see the Turnbull government recognise the need for additional funding for the Northern Territory in their Fact Sheets released yesterday. It is important though that the funding amount actually meets our level of need for our disadvantaged students.

"It is well known and recognised that some students in the Northern Territory live in challenging circumstances and require additional support to ensure they can achieve to the best of their abilities."

"The Northern Territory has the largest proportion of Indigenous children, 42 per cent compared to 6 per cent nationally."

"Geographically, 48 per cent of all children 0 – 12 in the Territory live in remote areas compared to 3 per cent nationally."

"The Territory also has the largest proportion of children aged 0 – 8 years of any state or territory in Australia. 14.1 per cent compared to 11.5 per cent nationally."

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“Over 37 per cent of NT government school students have a language background other than English.”

Mrs Fudge says “It is heartening to see the federal government tell the rest of Australia that additional funding for the Northern Territory is needed. We will be looking closely over the coming days at the detail of the additional \$35.6 million over the period 2018 – 2021.

“We will be looking at whether this is actually enough funding for our children in our under-resourced schools. They must not be denied the support and opportunities they need to reach their potential.”

“We have already lost millions of dollars in federal funding from the previous NT government who refused to sign up for Gonski funding. Preferring instead to accept a lesser amount with ‘no strings attached’.”

“COGSO encourages all parents and school communities to access the soon to be released public “calculator” for parents and teachers to look at how their school’s funding will be affected. It is expected to be released over the next few days.”

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The Council of Government School Organisations represents over 19,000 Northern Territory families, their 34,500 children and the school communities that support them, in 153 public schools.

MEDIA CONTACT

Michelle Parker
Tel: 042 888 5353

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