

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Australia's Education Ministers meet today and must stand up for vulnerable students

MEDIA RELEASE

The Northern Territory's peak body representing government school communities is urging Australia's Education Ministers to stand up for investment in Territory children.

Tabby Fudge, President of the NT Council of Government School Organisations, said, "Today the Commonwealth, states and territories will battle over school funding and Territory students are at risk."

Ms Fudge says "We are here to stand up for the most vulnerable and voiceless students and their families here in the Territory."

"Parents want an end to the politics and fighting and the smoke and mirrors which the federal government is hiding behind. We speak out because the federal government is pretending they are investing in education when they clearly are not."

"Whilst we welcome ending funding agreements which saw masses of funding going in to private schools, our job is to strip away the rhetoric and provide parents with the facts."

"We currently receive 23% of the federal schooling resource standard. In 2014 Tony Abbott planned to cut education funding to the NT from 2018 down to 18%. Simon Birmingham now says because he is offering the Territory 20% he's offering an increase."



“No. 23% to 20% is a cut in any one’s language. Territorians understand the simple math and it’s a cut. Where there should be increases and investment all we see are cuts to our children’s futures.”

“Gonski 2.0 is nothing to do with student needs based funding. It is a title that has been used by the federal government to tie funding to their yet to be determined federal education programs. Who knows what relevance these programs will have in a Territory context, if any relevance at all.”

“We also don’t know what the federal government will force the Northern Territory to do to receive funding but we do know the money will be tied to programs yet to be determined.”

“COGSO met with NT Minister for Education Eva Lawler this week ahead of the COAG Education Council meeting in Adelaide today and we urge the other states around the table to support us all in our fight for a better deal for Territory kids.”

Tabby Fudge
President
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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

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