



# ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

*The parent voice on public education*

19 March 2014

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To: Senate Select Committee on School Funding  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Members of the Committee,

The ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations (Council) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding.

Council comprises of 86 Parents & Citizens associations of government schools in the ACT, representing some 60,000 parents, carers and community members. Council has been actively lobbying for the development and implementation of needs-based funding arrangements for several years now.

Council supports the concept of allocating school funding on the basis of need. It is in Australia's economic and social interests to provide a fair education system where the educational outcomes of students are not disadvantaged by their history, needs and socio-economic background. For Australia to be a productive nation, our children must be educated to the best standard possible. More resources must be provided to the public education system, where it is needed most, to ensure that this becomes a reality. These reforms provide fairer funding across the board – helping to address current funding imbalances between independent and public schools while providing extra help for students who need it the most.

It is Council's belief that all matters in the Committee's terms of reference have already been addressed in the 2011 Australian Government report entitled *Review of Funding for Schooling: Final Report*, also known as the "Gonski review". This report was created after 18 months of extensive public consultation. Over 7000 written submissions were received and the reviewing panel met with hundreds of professionals and key stakeholders.

This report defined a per student dollar amount for primary and secondary students, as well as a series of loadings for student and school based sources of disadvantage (including but not limited to: school size, location, socioeconomic background, students with a disability and indigenous students).

Although the 6 year funding model proposed by the previous government is not entirely true to the original Gonski review, Council supports this model and the process by which it was researched and introduced.

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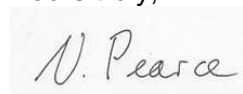
ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations is the representative body  
for Parent & Citizen Associations in the ACT.

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Council calls for the Committee to reaffirm the Federal Government agreement originally brokered with the ACT Government, providing an extra \$190 million in school funding over six years. This is but one step in making sure that differences in the educational outcomes of students are not due to variances in wealth or income.

An equitable education system grounded in a needs-based funding model is essential to Australia's economic, social and cultural progress. I thank you all for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "N. Pearce". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Ms Vivienne Pearce  
President  
ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations Inc.

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