

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on School Funding
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Canberra ACT 2600
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Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding

My name is Alison Ingram. For approximately 15 years of my career as a Teaching Artist (Theatre practitioner/student film maker) I have worked almost exclusively in 'disadvantaged' schools and communities. These school included what the NSW Dept of Education identifies as 'Behaviour' Schools that is, schools serving students with special needs due to their economic, geographic and /or learning 'disadvantage'. in the West and far South West of Sydney. I was also, while employed by The Bell Shakespeare Company, engaged with two multi campus High Schools in Melbourne's west. My work supplemented the High School and Primary School English and Arts curricula while simultaneously offering on site professional development to the staff with whom I collaborated.

Gonski would allow ALL disadvantaged schools around Australia to address the needs of ALL students with special needs. Increased funding - including funding for infrastructure - that would allow for SMALLER CLASS SIZES in such schools and therefore in turn, enable teachers to achieve better academic results - across the board - it VITAL if we are to have an equitable education system. More specialist teachers, including people such as myself, and more on-site PD for teachers in disadvantaged areas would be the most effective way for Australia to implement a more equitable education system.

Submitted by Alison Ingram, Teacher and Community Member
Friday 14 March 2014