

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on School Funding
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Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding

I am a mother of three young boys (Year 4, Year 1 and kindy - starting prep next year). My boys attend Runcorn State School. I also provide as much individual education to my boys as I can. The dedicated teachers at our school do incredible work with minimal resources - often funding their teaching initiatives out of their own pay. They are meeting a wide variety of needs in classrooms, which means that, despite best intentions and efforts, sometimes there are gaps.

A funding model based on the Gonski report would make a huge difference to our school community. Our teachers would be better supported to educate my children and all children, with more specialist reading and maths teachers and support staff. Currently our fantastic teacher aides are spread very thin across the school, and are focused on the early years to try to develop the basics. It does mean that middle school teachers are trying to progress our kid's learning with less support. Gonski would fund better professional development for our teachers. Teachers need to keep up to date, with the rapidly changing information needs and media types that children are using. Having an education system based on evidence and real research, not just values and assumptions, is very important to me as a parent and a professional.

Increasing funding to address special needs is very important, so teachers aren't solely responsible. Many children have some needs met, but not enough to get them to a level to keep up with their learning requirements, and once they start to fall behind in one area, or over one school year, it gets harder and harder to make

up that lost ground. More targeted resources in this area would really help.

Gonski is a well-researched reform model. I feel that my children and many others will be deprived of an opportunity to experience a really innovative education, if the Gonski reform isn't used. I give a Gonski. I hope the Government will as well.

Submitted by Irene Francisco regarding Runcorn State School

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