

Committee Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on School Funding  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

## Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding

I am a Bundjalung woman from northern NSW, a mum and a teacher. I have been lucky enough to work in and with public schools in northern NSW for many years. The rural public schools and their teachers that I have worked with are very often the centre of a vibrant and caring community. Many of the schools I worked in had high populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students with disabilities, and students that come from low income families.

6 years of Gonski funding would have a massive impact on the schools I have worked in.

- It would allow some of the programs and support that were developed during the National Partnership funding to be continued and further developed.
- It would mean that my teacher colleagues and support staff could receive quality professional development to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- It would mean that teachers and support staff could write and develop programs specifically to address the needs of individual students with the knowledge that funding is available to support those students needs.
- It would mean that the students I worked with that needed more support would have those specialist support workers like speech therapists, behaviour support specialists and specialist language and reading teachers.
- It would mean that schools could work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop programs and strategies to better engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and meet their needs.
- It would mean that schools and communities know what they are entitled to over

the long term and be able to plan effectively.

- It would mean that every student, no matter where they live, how much their parents earn, what their race or religion is or what their academic ability is, they will get the support and learning environment they deserve to achieve their best.

- It would mean that my 18mth old daughter will be going into a public education system that is fairly and well-funded and her teachers have been invested in and she will get the high quality publicly funded education that she is entitled to.

Submitted by Nicole Major, Teacher and Parent

Wednesday 12 March 2014