



*Australian Council
of State School
Organisations Inc.*

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

The Australian Council of State School Organisations appreciates the work behind the Australian Education Act and its amendments. We understand the need to put in place provisions to ensure the transparency and effectiveness of monies expended by governments in support of education in Australia.

Education plays a key role in determining how young Australians will engage society as adults. Research has clearly shown that a higher level of education means higher earnings, better health, and a longer life.

By default, therefore the social and financial ramifications of educational failure for Australia will be enormous.

For the young Australians in our public schools, equity in education means making sure that their personal and social circumstances should not be an obstacle to achieving their full educational potential.

It is also about ensuring a basic minimum standard of education for all and creating a level playing field.

The proposed school funding model will be a test of Australia's resolve on equity.

What happens in the classroom obviously affects equity, but the relationships between schools, parents and communities also matters. Research has clearly shown that student learning benefits from an effective school-home relationship.

ACSso would like to see greater accountability for schools with regards to parent engagement. We strongly believe that this relationship is crucial to the successful outcomes for a child and a greater emphasis needs to be visible in the National Plan for School Improvement.

Australia needs to put equity before privilege and press on with the Gonski funding model and the funding increase for disadvantaged schools. We have a unique opportunity this year to make a difference to the futures of low income and other disadvantaged students, to set a path to a fairer society and to boost economic prosperity.

Ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to learn and excel is essential to closing Australia's achievement gap and preparing our children adequately for the future.

The Bill recognises urgent need for funding reform and provides full, fair and equitable funding for public education in order to allow every child to reach his or her full potential.



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The Bill provides the legislative platform for these reforms. ACSso supports the Australian Education Act.

Understandably we are somewhat disappointed that the transition period to the full funding model is over a six year period; however we welcome the change and recognise the amendments go some way into unpacking the expectations of funding and the approach to transitioning it for full implementation in 2019

We believe the implementation of the Act will lead to ensuring a fairer funding model for all kids and will enable our nation to start to bridge the education gap. All young Australian s deserve equitable access to a quality education no matter what their background; we hope that any outcome of the 2014 election does not in any way effect the implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond

Peter Garrigan
President