



29 April 2014

In reply please quote: 508/2014/MM:am

The Hon. Mike Baird, MP
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Facsimile: (02) 9228 3935

Dear Premier,

We are writing this joint letter due to our shared concern about the future of the six-year Gonski schools funding agreement reached between the NSW Government and the Federal Government in April 2013 and the ramification for all NSW schools.

The refusal of the Federal Treasurer, to date, to guarantee the Federal Government's share of the fifth and sixth years of Gonski funding in this year's Federal Budget is deeply worrying. We note that the communique from December's Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting indicated that schools funding would be discussed at Friday's COAG meeting.

Your predecessor as Premier was a strong supporter of the Gonski funding model and we are hopeful that this support will continue under your leadership.

To its credit, the NSW Government has committed its share of the funding and expressed its support for the six-year funding model that is designed to lift all schools to a minimum school resource standard. We believe it is essential that the Federal Government does not break the agreement. On behalf of NSW educators, we ask that at the COAG meeting you make it clear that our school communities expect that the full six-year agreement will be honoured.

Schools in NSW are already seeing the benefits of the Gonski funding that has flowed through this year. However, it is vital that the funding continues, as over 70 per cent of the funding is due to be delivered in the fifth and sixth years of the agreement.

Without the full six-years of Gonski funding not all schools will meet the minimum resource standard and not all students will receive the education they need and deserve to reach their potential.

Disparities in resources lead to gaps in achievement and greater inequality in our education system. This will disproportionately affect students with disability, students from low-income families, students from rural and remote areas, Aboriginal students and students for whom English is a second language.

The upcoming Federal Budget will indicate the Government's intentions on the fifth and sixth years of Gonski funding. This week's COAG meeting is a vital opportunity for States and Territories to fight for the funding agreements they have reached.

Yours sincerely,

Lila Mularczyk
President
NSW Secondary Principals' Council

Geoff Scott
President
NSW Primary Principals' Association

Maurie Mulheron
President
NSW Teachers Association

Premier Baird says he will push for full Gonski funding

By NSW Teachers Federation 30 April 2014

The Sydney Morning Herald has reported that the NSW premier Mike Baird says he will continue to press his federal counterparts to fund the full six years of the Gonski school funding reforms.

The report says "The Premier said he would insist that the federal government stick to the signed agreement."

Baird is quoted as saying : "The NSW Government remains committed to the agreement and we will strongly advocate that the commonwealth government similarly agree to maintain the agreement for the full six-year period.

"NSW has always supported the Gonski reforms, and remains committed to the National Education Reform Agreement. We have amended our Education Act to change the way we fund non-government schools in accordance with the NERA."

The funding model is to be discussed at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on Friday in Canberra.

Yesterday a letter was sent to Mr Baird signed by the NSW Secondary Principals' Council, the NSW Primary Principals' Council and the NSW Teachers Federation. The letter urged the premier to continue to push for the agreement to be honoured.

<http://www.nswtf.org.au/news/2014/04/30/premier-baird-says-he-will-push-full-gonski-funding.html>