

### Who is on the Central Schools Committee?

The committee has five central school teachers elected by Federation Council. A Federation Officer is attached to the committee.

Committee members for 2013/2014 are:

- Bronwyn Lochrin, Boorowa Central School
- Darren Noonan, Merriwa Central School
- Vince O'Brien, Dunedoo Central School
- Derek Page, Woodenbong Central School
- Kerrie Wall, Woodenbong Central School
- Brett Bertalli, Country Organiser and Officer attached to the committee.

From 2014, each committee member will be attached to approximately 10 central schools and their workplace committees. The committee recognises the workload Federation activists have and will provide support for central school issues and campaigns, assist with updating workplace lists, advise members regarding workplace committee election processes and encourage general activism within your school and association. You can contact the committee via Brett Bertalli, [brokenhill@nswtf.org.au](mailto:brokenhill@nswtf.org.au).

### Guarantee Gonski campaign

Earlier this year the Central Schools Committee welcomed the news that Premier O'Farrell committed NSW to the Gonski schools funding reforms. The joint federal/state

agreement shows that the Premier has put politics aside and acted in the interests of the school students in this state.

Mr O'Farrell's federal Coalition counterparts have refused to make the same commitment. Prime Minister Tony Abbott will only fund the first four years of the six-year Gonski funding model. This means central schools across NSW will receive a total of just \$21,565,571 instead of \$64,696,714.

As well, Mr Abbott will not require state governments to invest and he refuses to commit to the fairer funding arrangements detailed in the signed agreements.

In keeping with Federation's Guarantee Gonski campaign for the federal election, the focus must now move to ensuring the Abbott Government delivers on its election pledge for the next four years, and to convince it to honour the final two years of the six year NSW agreement.

As Federation's extensive media advertising and community based campaign activities emphasised, it is vital that NSW students receive the full \$5 billion of funding that the O'Farrell Government pledged to co-deliver when it signed up earlier this year.

This will require on-going commitment from Federation members in local communities everywhere. In light of the tremendous achievements to date, we have good reason to engage with confidence in the next phase of this campaign.

Federation calls on central school members to actively campaign for Coalition MPs support for the full six year Gonski funding. Central school workplace committees can

lobby their Coalition MP using the attached letter.

Attached is a lobby kit including:

1. A letter to send to your Liberal or National Party Member of Parliament. Please fax any responses received to Federation (02) 9217 2470.
2. A table containing the difference between Mr Abbott's four year commitment and the full six year agreement, for each central school.
3. A list of Federal MPs and their contact details.

## Workplace Committees

Federation requires all workplaces to elect a Federation Workplace Committee. A check list for electing workplace committees is attached.

Establishing and empowering all Federation Workplace Committees is a key strategy in the *Putting Students First* campaign.

Federation understands the size of the committee will depend on the number of teachers at each workplace. Where there are sufficient members, Federation Workplace Committees should include the Federation Representative, Women's Contact and three or more committee members. Workplace Committee members are requested to help the Federation Representative organise and campaign within your local community. Please refer to the checklist attached to this newsletter.

Workplace Committees are encouraged to form strong bonds with their school P&C. Please encourage committee members to attend P&C meetings to reiterate the importance of the full six-year Gonski agreement. Encourage P&Cs to send a letter to your Federal MP. Federation will continue to provide Workplace Committees with up-to-date resources to use at such meetings.